

Saint Andrew's *CALL*

No. 324

Wellesley, Massachusetts

December 2008/January 2009

And the angel Gabriel came to Mary and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.
(Luke 1:28-29)



ADVERT

RECTOR'S LETTER: The Glad News

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel went in to her, and said:

Hail full of grace, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. When she saw him, she was abashed at his saying: and cast in her mind what manner of salutation that should be. And the angel said unto her: fear not Mary: for thou hast found grace with God. Lo: thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

—Luke 1:26-31 (William Tyndale's translation, 1534)

I've chosen Tyndale's translation of this much-loved passage because even more than his successors who produced the King James Version (and often adopted his translation), Tyndale was writing for ordinary people, many of whom were holding the Bible in their own tongue in their own hands for the first time. There is a direct connection between Mary's encounter with the angel and that first encounter of English-speakers with the gospel. In both cases the everyday meets the divine; as Mary says later in Luke's gospel, God has "looked on the poor degree of his handmaiden."



This is the glad news of Advent: God is coming to be with **us**. God is coming to share the life of ordinary people because God loves us. The glad news of Christmas is the achievement of that hope: God is here among us, a person among people. The angel proclaims to us as well as to the shepherds who first received the message: **I bring you tidings of great joy that shall come to all the people: for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a saviour which is Christ the Lord.**

We live in the tension between expressing the hope and feeling its achievement. More often perhaps we feel the hope; from time to time God gives us grace to know that the hope has been accomplished, that God really is here with us. Wherever you find yourself on that spectrum as Advent builds to Christmas, as Christmas builds to Epiphany, remember Mary's response. Though **abashed** at first, thrown off-balance and intimidated, she allowed the news to be true. She accepted the disconcerting joy and she did her part to spread the joy in the whole community. Like her, we pray to accept God and to share our gladness that God is among us, among people, ordinary people.

Addison

FROM THE WARDENS: The Blessings of Our Many Gifts

As we sit down to compose a Christmas greeting, we have just experienced the joy and companionship of a very successful fellowship and fundraising event, the Harvest Moon Auction. That so many of us made the time to share fellowship and support generously the church's outreach and inreach commitments in this autumn of uncertainty is a tribute to the power of hope and determination and a testimony to the strength of our parish community. We are grateful to the indomitable leadership of Jessica DelPrete and her enthu-

siastic team: Lynda Sperry, Lisa Hastings, Jackie Hendrix, Caren Parker, Jenny Sawyer, Deb Elfers and Becky Hamlin who orchestrated a grand evening. We thank them for the gifts of fellowship and sharing that they provided the parish. And we are grateful, also, for the extraordinary response of over two hundred parish families who supported the auction with donations and participation.

Our appreciation of the generous gift of the Auction is, perhaps, an appropriate prelude to the season that

celebrates God's greatest gift to the world -- that of a tiny baby in a humble manger whose messages of love and hope and faith changed the world. As we enter the Advent season of preparation for this greatest of all gifts, let us contemplate the many other gifts that we enjoy -- gifts of family, of fellowship, of warmth and shelter, of ample nourishment. We have much to be thankful for. And we wish you all the blessings of a joyful Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Pam Henrikson and Stephen Clarke

ADVENT - CHRISTMAS

Christmas Cookies and Carols

Friday, December 5th, from 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. by a roaring fire in the Parish Hall. All parishioners, adults and children, are invited to this special holiday gathering. Bring along your favorite cookies to share - if you have time! The Kids Christmas Shop will open promptly at 6:30 p.m. and close at 7:00 p.m. All gifts will be wrapped for your child and are just \$0.25! A few "friendly elves" are needed to staff the shop and wrap the gifts; if you can help, please call Jeanne Nilson at 781-237-5828. Singing around the piano in the parish hall will begin at 7:00 p.m. There is no need to RSVP, but if you have questions, please call Jennifer Olivetti at 781-237-9895.

Calling all aspiring Angels, Shepherds and Kings— Yes, it's almost that time of year again!

The **St. Andrew's Christmas Pageant** will take place this year on **Sunday, December 21 at 10:00 a.m.** and there is a part for you! Whether you would like to participate in the service or volunteer behind the scenes to make this year's pageant a wonderful success we need you. Below is a general schedule of events. A more detailed breakdown of tasks and timeline will be available on November 23. If you have any questions, please contact Amanda Hammond (Amanda@standrewswellesley.org)

Sunday, December 7, 12:30-1:30 p.m. — Open Rehearsal in the Sanctuary — All people interested in speaking and featured roles should attend this rehearsal. All roles will be assigned during this time.

(Please note: if you do not want a featured/speaking role, you only will need to attend the rehearsal on December 20th but please make sure to sign-up ahead of time.)

Sunday, December 14, 12:30-1:30 p.m. — Rehearsal for all featured and speaking roles.

Saturday, December 20, 12:00-5:00 p.m. — The **REALLY BIG Christmas Pageant Rehearsal** for everyone participating in the service

Sunday, December 21

8:30 a.m. — Meeting/Warm-up/Final preparation before the Pageant

10:00 a.m. — **Christmas Pageant**

Worship and Christian Learning Calendar

- December 7
Advent 2** Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Church School for all & Rite-13
CLS: Signs Of Endings, New Beginnings at 9:00 a.m. in Room 2
- December 14
Advent 3** Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m., Rite-13 Ceremony
9:45 a.m. Church School for all & Rite-13
CLS: Signs Of Endings, New Beginnings at 9:00 a.m. in Room 2
5:00 p.m. **Advent Lessons and Carols**
& Youth Inquirers Group
- December 21
Advent 4** All Parish Eucharist & Pageant at 10:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Church School for Toddler-Pre-K Only
- December 24
Christmas Eve** Children's Service at 3:00 p.m.
Family Celebration of Holy Eucharist at 5:00 p.m.
Festival Holy Eucharist at 10:00 p.m.
- December 25
Christmas Day** Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
(No 12:10 p.m. Service)
- December 28
Christmas I** Christmas Lessons and Carols at 10:00 a.m.
- January 4
Christmas 2** Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. with Children's Chapel for K-3rd Grades
No Church School – childcare available for children under 5
5:00 p.m. **Epiphany Fireside Service**
& Youth Inquirers Group
- January 11
Epiphany I** All Parish Eucharist & Baptism at 10:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Church School for Toddler-Pre-K Only
- January 18
Epiphany 2** Morning Prayer at 10:00 a.m.
Children's Chapel for K-3rd Grades
No Church School – childcare available for children under 5
- January 19
MLK Jr. Day** Youth Inquirer's Group - Service Day
- January 25
Epiphany 3** Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.
9:45 a.m. Church School for all & Rite-13
Annual Meeting Directly Following 10:00 a.m. Service
Childcare available.



Prepare the Way"

An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 14th at 5:00 p.m.

*Featuring the St. Andrew's Church Choir
Under the direction of Wardie Mannix, Minister of Music*

Music by Orlando Gibbons, Elizabeth Poston, 14th Century motets, and Advent carols

Please join us for this special, one-hour service of Advent carols, readings, and hymns. A candlelight reception will follow in the Parish Hall. **All are welcome!**

Adult Christian Learning

*"Food for the Journey"
A Quiet Day in Advent
Thursday, December 4th
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.*



Looking for a time of adult spiritual refreshment? Please join us for our Advent Quiet Day here at St. Andrew's. Quiet Days are a time to slow down, deepen our experience of prayer, and listen more closely for the Spirit at work in our lives. Our day will be framed by three Advent meditations, surrounded by silence. During the morning, sacred space for prayer, journal writing, watercolor painting, spiritual reading, or walking the labyrinth will be available. At noontime, we'll celebrate an informal Eucharist in the Children's Chapel, followed by a simple talking meal to end the day. Clergy will be available for individual appointments to discuss your own spiritual journey during the morning. There is no cost, but please sign up in advance by contacting Rev. Chris Wendell at 781-235-7310 or chris@standrewswellesley.org.

Senior High Youth Group Corner

DINNER & SENIOR SEMINAR:

A Green Christmas

Sunday, December 7th

6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

You've dreamt of a White Christmas, probably had a Blue Christmas or two, but this year, have a GREEN Christmas. It's the holiday season, which means lots of trees, lights, paper, presents, special food, and, of course, traveling. That's a LOT of burning carbon and non-recyclable material – and not exactly how Jesus celebrated Christmas! Come hang out for a relaxed night of pizza, some Apples to Apples, and a conversation about how we can be "Greener" at Christmas and make environmentally friendly resolutions for the New Year. RSVP to Chris Wendell at 781.235.7310 or chris@standrewswellesley.org

BARTON ROAD CHRISTMAS PARTY

Thursday, December 11th

4-6:00 p.m.

Every year St. Andrew's throws a Christmas party for the children of Barton Road, a public housing community in Wellesley. We need your help to play with the elementary school kids – run games, play music, help with cookie decorating, and just hang out for a couple hours. You may even see Santa... RSVP to Chris at 781.235.7310 or chris@standrewswellesley.org.

BLACK NATIVITY:

An Amazing Story

Saturday, December 13th

2:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Come join the group for a trip into Boston to see "Black Nativity". This is NOT your grandmother's Nativity story – but it IS one of the hottest tickets in Boston

in December, and a unique, beautiful re-telling of the story of Jesus' birth. We'll see the 3:30 performance and then have dinner together near the theater. Cost: \$40. RSVP to Hope Aldrich at 508-975-4075.

iGROW: Interfaith Gathering

'Round Our Wellness

Sunday, January 11th

6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.

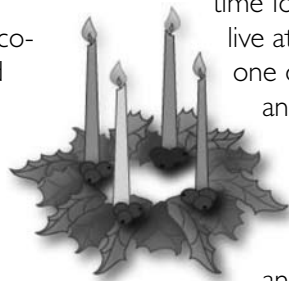
Come see your friends in other church/temple youth groups in Wellesley for our second "Interfaith Teen Night," hosted just down the street at the Village Church. In addition to fun and games and a nice meal, we'll be continuing the conversation around teen mental wellness, and how depression affects high school students. Our first event had over 80 kids at it, so be sure to check this out! RSVP to Chris Wendell at 781.235.7310.

Faith in the Home: Decorating for the (Liturgical) Season!

One way to help bring the life of the Spirit into your home is through decorating the space in which you live. This can be a fun activity for the whole family, and a meaningful way to explore the themes of the season together. December and January include three distinct seasons of the church year: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Here are a few suggestions for making each one visibly present in your family's home, and starting conversations about what these seasons mean for us today. For more ideas, check out: <http://www.domestic-church.com/>

Advent

The traditional advent decoration is the wreath, fitted with four candles, one for each week of advent. The candles are usually lit for family meals during grace. If you're not regular 'grace sayers' at meal times, the wreath is a great way to start! To "spice it up" a bit,



try finding a different way of displaying four purple candles some place in your home. Also, try adding something new to your wreath each week of Advent (pinecones, holly and ivy, baby pears, be creative!). If you want to go all out, spend an afternoon with your family making candles to use for advent. You can use a home candle-making kit, available at hobby stores or on amazon.com.

Christmas

How many years have you had that crèche on your mantle? Maybe it's time for a new one. If your kids still live at home, let them help you pick one out. Every crèche set is different, and choosing a new one is a great way to start a conversation about the real meaning of this special holiday! Also, people often forget that Christmas is an entire liturgical season, just like Advent. It lasts twelve days, from Christmas until January 5th. Be sure to

let your decorations continue to adorn your home all the way until Epiphany!

Epiphany

Don't forget to hold off on adding the wise men to your crèche until Epiphany (the day they actually arrived!). And as you put the Christmas decorations back into the basement, consider keeping the Christmas tree star out and finding another way to display it in your home. It is a reminder of the light of Christ that reveals to the whole world during Epiphany. And for kids, let them decorate their bedroom ceilings with glow in the dark stars!

The Epiphany Fireside Service

will take place at 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 4. Once again, the Fellowship Committee will provide a delicious meal to follow the service so please plan to join us for this intimate celebration of the Feast of the Epiphany in the Parish Hall and then stay to break bread with friends!

Other Local Opportunities for Quiet Time in Advent

Advent Retreat Day
Saturday, December 6th
9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

@ Bethany House of Prayer

A day at Bethany House in Arlington set apart to enter the mystery of Advent and explore the gift of the Incarnation through meditations, prayer, silence, companionship and worship. Midday meal included. Suggested donation is \$60.

Advent Day of Prayer
Saturday, December 13th
@ Sisters of St. Margaret in Roxbury

A guided day of prayer, led by Sister Sarah, SSM. Lunch included, suggested donation is \$35.

Whispers from the Parish Library...

By Carol Shedd, parish librarian

Christmas is coming and soon the stores will be filled with jolly old Santa Claus and decorated fir trees to remind shoppers to buy, buy, buy. Helping young children to understand the real meaning of Christmas faces stiff competition. St. Andrew's Library has added to its collection of seasonal picture books seven new ones that, in different ways, reflect the Christmas spirit for parents and children. You are welcome to borrow these books, or you might like to read them in the library and choose the ones you want to own. These also make great gifts for the children in your life!

Following is a list of selected Christmas picture books with brief annotations. They can all be found in the children's section, under the label PB / CHR:

All For the Newborn Baby by Phyllis Root
 A beautiful little book illustrated in the fashion of medieval prayer books. The text is a charming Christmas lullaby.

Angela and the Baby Jesus by Frank McCourt
 McCourt relates the story of his mother Angela, at the age of six, who worries that the baby in the church crèche feels the cold. Snuggling the Christ child in her coat she carries him through holiday crowds toward the warmth of her home.

The Animal's Christmas by Catherine Gardam
 A simple, nicely illustrated story about animals celebrating Christmas with the angels in the ruins of an old abbey.

Bear's First Christmas by Robert Kinerk
 What is it that woke the young bear from his winter sleep? Sharing the Christmas spirit with animals and nature is the theme of this picture book, beautifully illustrated by Jim LaMarche.

Family Countdown to Christmas by Debbie Trafton O'Neal
 Colorful paperback filled with crafts, activities and short tales designed to prepare children for the Christmas season. This is for parents to purchase since it includes stickers.

The Light of Christmas by Richard Paul Evans
 Lovely illustrations lead a child to consider what the true 'light' of Christmas is.

Room for a Little One: A Christmas Tale by Martin Waddell
 It's Christmas Eve and the kindly Ox invites each of his visitors to share his space in the stable with the greeting that "there is always room for a little one".

The Nativity by Julie Vivas
 Using the text of the story from Luke, this well-known Austrian illustrator charmingly portrays the holy family in a very natural earthy life as country peasants.

This Is the Stable by Cynthia Cotten
 Rhyming couplets in the style of 'the house that Jack built' introduce each part of the Christmas story from the animals in the manger to the birth of the baby Jesus.

We Three Kings by Gennady Spirin
 This is an exquisitely illustrated book of watercolors and colored pencils telling the story of the three wise men through the words of the hymn.

And for parents...

With all the hustle and bustle of preparations for the holiday, it would be a gift to ourselves to set aside a little quiet time each day to reflect on what the coming Christmas season means to us as Christians. In the library there are several books that will help us do this. They are short books of seasonal meditations and can be found under the Dewey Decimal number 242.3.

Happy Reading!

common cathedral Worship — Family Outreach Opportunity

Sunday, January 11th

All are welcome to come and worship with our brothers and sisters at **common cathedral** on Sunday, January 11th. We'll meet at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Kitchen to make sandwiches to serve for lunch, attend the 10:00 a.m. service at St. Andrew's, and then leave St. Andrew's for the Boston Common about Noon for the 1:00 p.m. service where we will serve lunch to our hosts. We'll be finished at Boston Common at about 2:30 p.m. Middle and High School students are particularly encouraged to attend (parents welcome!), as are all adults in the community. The group size is limited to 16, so please RSVP early by contacting Cam McCormick at 781.239.1284 or via e-mail at cammccormick@earthlink.net.

2008 ADVENT and CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, December 14 – ADVENT III

5:00 p.m. Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 21 – ADVENT IV

10:00 a.m. All-Parish Eucharist and Christmas Pageant

Wednesday, December 24 – *Christmas Eve*

3:00 p.m. Children's Service

5:00 p.m. Family Festival Holy Eucharist

10:00 p.m. Christmas Music

10:30 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 25 – *Christmas Day*

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 26 – Parish Office is closed

Sunday, December 28 – Christmas I

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols

5:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist

OUTREACH

In December, the Mission of the Month is once again the **Spirit of Giving**. During the busy holiday season it is so easy to get swept up in our own planning, scheduling, and needs that the time to do for others can easily get pushed aside. But the holidays can be the most difficult time for people who need help—especially this year—so we ask you to take some time for reflection on how you can help. Below are a number of opportunities that Outreach can offer to direct your giving.

❖ **Alternative Christmas Fair** – Sunday, December 14: Outreach will set up in the parish hall during coffee hour to host a collection of alternative Christmas giving opportunities. Shoppers will have the chance to make purchases that go directly to specific Outreach projects in a wide range of prices. It is an excellent opportunity for everyone—and families in particular—to come together, discuss, decide, and make an impact on the lives of others. There will be

gifting possibilities for St. Stephen's Summer Camp/B-Safe Program, Students for Jamaica, Heifer Project, Epiphany School, Women of Means, Episcopal Relief and Development, and more. Please plan to stop by and learn more about how your Christmas gift can help make a difference.

- ❖ **Coats for Kids** is an effort to collect winter coats in good condition to be distributed to the less fortunate. This drive is in its 14th year and hopes to collect and give out 60,000 coats in Massachusetts. We will have collection bins set up in church through December 31 to gather all winter coats in good condition for babies, children, and adults (no rips, tears, missing buttons or faulty zippers).
- ❖ **Barton Road Christmas Party** is a holiday celebration for children in Wellesley's public housing. St. Andrew's provides an afternoon of fun and games for elementary

school age children. This year's party is on December 11 at 4 p.m. (a Thursday) in the Parish Hall. There will be singing, dancing, games, a pizza dinner, cookie decorating and a visit from Santa. Volunteers are welcome and needed to help out.

- ❖ **The Mitten Tree** is set up each year in church to provide mittens, scarves, and winter hats to needy children in Boston and Wellesley. Parishioners can place items purchased for this effort on or under the tree in the Parish Hall of the church.
- ❖ **Sox Box**: Through the end of December we will continue to collect new white athletic sox to help homeless women in Boston. These simple items are critical to the women who wear them not only for their warmth but for their value in helping with early identification of medical issues. Please consider contributing socks or you can make a small cash donation toward the purchase of these important items to help Women of Means. For more information, visit their web site at www.womenofmeans.org.
- ❖ **St. Andrew's Gift Table**: During Advent we will be selling *The Book of Common Food* (a popular recipe book whose proceeds go to the support of our food ministries) and *St. Andrew's CDs* (different selections featuring music and poetry, proceeds increasing the Outreach Endowment Fund).
- ❖ **Salvation Army Dinners**: Beginning in January, St. Andrew's will have a regular rotation at the Salvation Army. We will take the fourth Tuesday of every month to prepare and serve food to the 50-100 hungry guests at the Framingham location. This service opportunity is appropriate for any parishioner and children 9+ years of age (a great family activity) and can be either preparing the meal (which others will deliver), serving the dinner

on-site from 5:00 – 7:15, or both. Please see Tim Phillips or Peter Lull for more information.

- ❖ MIHN (Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network): The MIHN program is fully operational in its program to serve homeless families on a rotating basis at parishes in the Metrowest community. St. Andrew's serves as a support church to the Wellesley Congregational (Village) Church – their next spot in the rotation is in January, so there will be a need for volunteers to prepare meals and perhaps spend the night on-site. There are training sessions that are required for anyone who wants to participate and would be interacting with the families. Please see Michael Mahlenkamp or contact Anne Manners at 508-545-0174 for more information.

We are looking to make volunteer engagements easier for everyone. To sign up, you may contact Peter Lull by **email** (StAsoutreach@verizon.net) or by **phone** (781.235.6171), or simply call the parish office. For those who cannot attend the **Outreach Committee meetings** (held the 4th Monday of each month at 7:30), we have many ways to get updates on the latest activities. There is a **monthly email newsletter – St. Andrew's In Action** – which highlights Outreach stories and activities; there are updates in the Sunday leaflets; and there is an **Outreach bulletin board** in the stairwell by the back entrance to the church (by the parking circle), on the way down to the parish hall. If you have suggestions for other Outreach activities, please contact Peter Lull.

MIHN NEWS

How about going to a Christmas show that benefits the homeless? You can get tickets at reduced prices to see *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* on December 6th at 5:00 p.m. at the Wang Center, Boston.

Purchase your tickets by calling: Katie Rosengarten at 781-595-7570 or email her at: katie@mahomeless.org

Don't forget the dates for MIHN training in December:

December 2nd at UU Society of Wellesley Hills, 309 Washington Street, Wellesley Hills from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

December 3rd at the Federated Church of Ashland, 118 Main Street, Ashland from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

December 10th at First Parish Church, Framingham, 24 Vernon Street, Framingham, MA

Please get the training if you haven't already done so, as we are expected to help the Village Church when they host in January. We shall need your help the week of January 4th. Generally, we have been asked to be prepared to offer to purchase and prepare breakfast or dinner. They may also need people who are willing to help at the Center during the day or stay overnight at the church one night.

Please contact: Michael Mahlenkamp or Anne Manners if you are here at that time and might be able to help out. Thank You.

FELLOWSHIP HAPPENINGS

Before I talk about upcoming Fellowship events, I'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who helped with recent activities, and to all who attended the October Inreach Tea, and the recent Silent Auction! These events are truly a group effort, and your help and participation only builds on a strong foundation of Fellowship throughout the St. Andrew's community.

Don't miss a wonderful evening of "Cookies & Carols" on Friday, December 5 from 6:30 – 8:00pm in the Parish Hall. Come one, come all...we'll start the caroling at 7:00pm. Bring a batch of your favorite holiday cookies to share (if you have time!), and we'll enjoy a festive evening together!

Looking ahead...

Please mark your calendar for the Epiphany Fireside Service and Potluck Supper on Sunday, January 4 beginning at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Bring a main dish or side dish to share. We'll provide bread, beverages, and dessert!

RSVP to the Parish Office at 781-235-7310 or rme@standrews-wellesley.org

PARISH NEWS

Parish Register

Burial

David S. Atkinson

Baptism

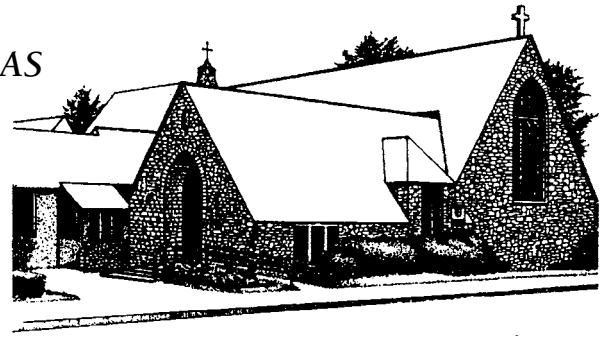
George William Raeke



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Gifts to provide Christmas poinsettias to decorate the church can be made by submitting names to the Parish Office for the memorial list, by Friday, December 5th, along with a check made

payable to St. Andrew's Church – *Flower Fund* and in the memo section specify Christmas. If you have any questions please call Janet Ellis at 781-237-0665.



YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ACAPPELLA SINGERS HOLIDAY CONCERT

ON
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6TH
AT 7:00 P.M

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

Tickets –
Adults \$12.00
Seniors and Students \$10.00

The Wardens and Vestry of St. Andrew's gratefully acknowledges a bequest from the estate of Mary S. West.

Make one of your New Years' Resolutions to Host Coffee Hour... it is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

Have you heard the news? We have simplified Coffee Hour hosting and we would love to have you participate. It is as easy as 1, 2, 3...Here is how.

Purchase a "healthy" snack for Coffee Hour if you so choose.

Come early to church to set up your snack and put out the paper products supplied in the kitchen

Clean up when Coffee Hour is finished.

Simple, yes? Well, we know that making the actual coffee is confusing so that will be taken care of for you by our very competent Sextons...you just show up to help set up and clean up. How easy is that?

Please look for the sign up sheets on the bulletin board to volunteer to host Coffee Hour... and while you are there, consider signing up for being a Greeter too on Sunday...what a wonderful way to give back to the church and have fun too! Any questions, contact Becky Hamlin.

Interested in Baptism?

St. Andrew's offers the Sacrament of Baptism at each of our Sunday services (8:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m., or 5:00 p.m.) at various times throughout the year. Our next 10:00 a.m. Baptism will be on Sunday, January 11th. Families are asked to meet with the Clergy for a pre-Baptismal instructional session several weeks before the Baptism. If you are interested in finding out more about the Rite of Baptism or scheduling one for your family, please contact The Rev. Chris Wendell (chris@standrewswellesley.org) or any of the Clergy.



Reports for the 2008 Annual Report are due in the Parish Office by Wednesday, January 7, 2009

The 116th Annual Meeting of St. Andrew's Church will take place at 11:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 25, 2009. Candidates for the positions of Warden, Treasurer, Clerk, Vestrypersons for Education, Property and Stewardship, Convention Delegates and members of next year's Nominating Committee will be introduced at the 10:00 a.m. service on January 18 and 25. Elections will take place following the 8:00 a.m. services and before and after the 10:00 a.m. services on January 18 and January 25. The results will be announced at the January 25 Annual Meeting.

Sustaining our Parish – 2009 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

We are all stewards of the blessings God grants to us, and we are all stewards of St. Andrews. With these sentiments, we launched our 2009 Stewardship appeal on Commitment Sunday, September 28, with two goals: Full participation by all members of the parish, and a challenge to all of us to Step Up a level in financial support for St. Andrew's Church and all of our ministries. Members of St. Andrew's are expected (but not required) to demonstrate their commitment to St. Andrew's through pledges of financial support, and also personal support for parish activities. Our goals are to receive at least 340 pledges or directed gifts for 2009 with at least \$735,000 pledged. As of this writing (November 11) we have received 184 pledges totaling \$409,000. Additional pledge cards are available at the rear of the church, or from the office. You can also pledge on-line at our parish web site (Stewardship link).

Pledging is important for many reasons. Perhaps the biggest reason is to affirm your connection to our parish family, conferring to you both the sense of being a vital part of our community and the satisfaction of seeing the fruits of your support: our wonderful worship and music ministries, pastoral care for those in need, vibrant Christian Learning programs for our youth and adults, and broad Outreach programs to benefit those

outside our parish who need our help. God calls on us to set aside a portion of our blessings to give back to God and to help others. God calls us to be generous, and to be joyful givers – to feel good about our donations of time and funds, as we see how they are used for worthwhile causes and activities.

The second important reason to pledge is for planning purposes. The Vestry makes plans and hard choices, and the Finance Committee sets a budget for 2009 based on assumptions regarding our revenue stream for 2009. Pledges inform these difficult decisions and reduce the risk that we will face budget shortfalls. A pledge is a statement of intent that allows the Vestry to plan optimally for 2009 and allocate funds to our varied ministries. We all face a difficult and uncertain economy – but we should pledge an amount that is both generous and manageable based on measured optimism and an element of Faith that we will weather the storm. If personal circumstances change, and you find yourself unable to meet your pledge level, just call the church office and let Ruth know that you need to modify your pledge amount. We are sympathetic to the challenges that many face – but that makes it even more important that we have current information with which to manage our budget as the year unfolds.

We will honor all of our stewards in January by internally posting **“St. Andrew's Community of Stewards”** – an alphabetical list of all whose pledges and gifts support our 2009 campaign. There will not be dollar amounts, only names posted. We really want to hear from every member of the parish this year – no matter the size of your gift. We truly value and appreciate whatever you can give. Please fill out the enclosed a blue Community of Stewards card to indicate how you would like to be listed, and enclose or return it with your pledge, or convey your wishes to Ruth directly in our office at 781-235-7310. You can opt to be listed among our Anonymous stewards if you prefer.

For our current year (2008), we also ask that all parishioners strive to complete their pledge payments for this year by December 31 – which can then be included in your charitable gifts if you itemize deductions for taxes. Payments for 2009 can also be made early, which may have beneficial tax implications. You might also consider direct donations of appreciated stocks or (for those over 70 ½) from IRA's, as a means of stretching your donations by minimizing tax bites.

As always, we are very grateful for your support of St. Andrew's. Thank you!
Herb Manning

DIOCESAN CONVENTION REPORT - 2008

The 223rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Massachusetts was held on Friday, November 7 and Saturday, November 8, 2008 in Hyannis. We heard reports from diocesan committees and commissions; elected diocesan deputies to the General Convention and members of the Standing Committee, the Board of Directors of the Barbara C. Harris Center and other diocesan Offices. We also adopted the diocesan budget for 2009 and considered seven resolutions.

Of special note was the election of Edie Dolnikowski to the Commission on Ministry for the diocese where she will work with the bishops to prepare candidates for ordination.

The bishop of the diocese Jerusalem was a special guest of our bishops at the convention. He and Bishop Harris made a special presentation about the work being done in the diocese (which includes Israel, Palestine, Syria, Jordan

and Lebanon) and the ways we in the diocese of Massachusetts can help.

The following resolutions were discussed and approved at the Convention:

- (1) Resolution creating a diocesan policy on immigration;
- (2) Resolution in support of transgender civil rights and inclusion in the ministry of the baptized;
- (3) Resolution affirming actions of the 75th General Convention on slavery and reconciliation;
- (4) Resolution on Christian formation/ education regarding the practice of non-violence in the Christian tradition;
- (5) Resolution for General Convention endorsing a Feast Day on May 17 for Saints Andronicus and Junia, Apostles;
- (6) Resolution for continued trial use in the Diocese of Massachusetts of a Feast Day on May 17 for Saints Andronicus and Junia, Apostles; and
- (7) Resolution confirming support of the Diocese of Massachusetts for the

work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

The proposed diocesan budget for 2009 shows a significant decrease from the 2008 budget in anticipation of a challenging economic environment and higher fuel costs. A major reorganization resulted in a combination of staff and program cuts in diocesan communications and reduction of core operating costs for some diocesan programs. A new feature of the 2009 budget is an unallocated core reserve of \$120,000, which can be granted to parishes to support ministry initiatives and assist with energy expenses; this is in anticipation of economic issues in the diocese over the coming year.

The St. Andrew's delegates to the Diocesan Convention this year were Edie Dolnikowski, Addison Hall, Will Nystrom and Steve Taylor. Please speak to any of us if you want to know more about the work of the Convention.

DECEMBER 2008 – JANUARY 2009 CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, December 4 –

ADVENT QUIET DAY 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist at North Hill
12:10 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 5 – DEADLINE TO SUBMIT CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL NAMES

6:30 p.m. Christmas Cookies and Carols

Saturday, December 6 –

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Sunday, December 7 – ADVENT II

9:45 a.m. Church School/Rite-13

Thursday, December 11 –

9:00 a.m. Brass Polishing
4-6:00 p.m. Children's Christmas Party

Saturday, December 13 –

2:30 p.m. SHYG Black Nativity and Dinner

Sunday, December 14 – ADVENT III

5:00 p.m. Advent Lessons and Carols and Youth Inquirers Group

Monday, December 15 –

7:30 p.m. Finance Committee

Tuesday, December 16 –

7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Saturday, December 20 –

12:30 p.m. Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Pageant and Greening of the Church

Sunday, December 21 – ADVENT IV – CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

10:00 a.m. All-Parish Eucharist and Pageant

Wednesday, December 24 – CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 p.m. Children's Service
5:00 p.m. Family Holy Eucharist
10:00 p.m. Christmas Music
10:30 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist

Thursday, December 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Friday, December 26 –

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Sunday – December 28 – CHRISTMAS I

10:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 31 –

NEW YEAR'S EVE

7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Thursday, January 1 – NEW YEAR'S DAY

THE HOLY NAME

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Friday, January 2 –

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, January 3 –

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

Sunday, January 4 – THE EPIPHANY

5:00 p.m. Epiphany Fireside Service & Supper

Tuesday, January 6 –

7:30 p.m. Lay Pastoral Care

Wednesday, January 7 – ANNUAL REPORTS DUE IN THE PARISH OFFICE

Sunday, January 11 –

BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

10:00 a.m. All-Parish Eucharist and Baptism

Monday, January 12 –

DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY CALL

Tuesday, January 13 –

10:30 a.m. Bible Circle

Thursday, January 15 –

9:00 a.m. Cook for Rosie's Place

Saturday, January 17 –

SHYG Ski Trip

Sunday, January 18 – EPIPHANY II –

Vestry Elections

9:45 a.m. No Church School

Monday, January 19 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED

7:30 p.m. Finance Committee

7:30 p.m. Outreach Committee

Tuesday, January 20 –

7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting

Sunday, January 25 – EPIPHANY III –

Vestry Elections and Annual Meeting

11:15 a.m. Annual Meeting

5:00 p.m. Youth Inquirer's Class



Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church
79 Denton Road, Wellesley, MA 02482

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

79 Denton Road • Wellesley, MA 02482

Telephone (781) 235-7310 • FAX (781) 235-0067 • www.standrewswellesley.org

Rev. Addison C. Hall, Rector
Rev. Edith Dolnikowski, Associate Rector
Rev. Chris Wendell, Assistant Rector for
Christian Learning
Rev. Karen Vickers Budney, Pastoral Associate

Miss Rose M. Erlen, Rector's and Parish Secretary,
CALL Editor
Ms. Susan Jackson-Roer, Christian Learning
Ministry Assistant
Ms. Helen Ward Mannix, Music Minister

Ms. Amanda Hammond, Youth Choir Director
Mrs. Ruth Hubert, Financial Secretary
Mr. Stephen F. Killeen, Sexton
Mr. William Clover, Assistant Sexton
Mr. Matthew Killeen, Assistant Sexton