

News from Saint Andrew's - Burt

December 2009

We are a diverse community of faith called by God to love, worship, pray, support, and serve.

Your Vicar's View †

Return O God of Love, return

I have been surprised at how much I am enjoying the bustle and busyness of the holiday season this year. I usually roll my eyes when the Christmas decorations fill stores in early November, but this year I have found myself cheerfully getting caught up in the bright lights and vivid colors. I have discovered surprising hope in these gaudy reminders of our abundance and of our resilience in the face of many months of loss and fear; and (perhaps because I'm an incurable procrastinator) I have grudgingly admired the readiness with which our stores prepare for Christmas.

Hope, resilience, readiness: These are Advent virtues. Indeed, there is as much urgency to prepare our hearts for Christ's

presence as there is to do the shopping, baking, wrapping, and housekeeping that fill our December days. It is as important to be mindful of our longing for God's love as to hope that we have purchased the right gifts. At the top of our daily or weekly "to do" list we need to set aside a quiet time when we can pause, be still, and say "Come in, Lord."

Mary Oliver's poem captures the sense of quiet that we can find in the middle of our many tasks; it reminds us that when we make room for the people who need us we also make room for God.

Judith

Making the House Ready for the Lord

*Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but
still nothing is as shining as it should be
for you. Under the sink, for example, is an
uproar of mice – it is the season of their
many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves
and through the walls the squirrels
have gnawed their ragged entrance – but it is the season
when they need shelter, so what should I do? And
the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard
while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow;
what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling
in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly
up the path, to the door. And still I believe that you will
come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox,
the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know
that really I am speaking to you whenever I say,
as I do all morning and afternoon: come in, come in. (Mary Oliver)*

The Blessings Outweigh the Burdens

A View from Your Warden

Be the loving expression of God's kindness; kindness in your eyes, kindness in your face, kindness in your smile, kindness in your warm greetings. We are all but His instruments who do our little bit and pass by. I believe that the way in which an act of kindness is done is as important as the action itself.

- Mother Teresa

In looking in retrospect at the last 3 years, as I end my tenure as warden, I am aware and **grateful** that, for the most part, the blessings of this ministry have far outweighed the burdens. I have worries like everyone, regarding our finances, our weekly attendance, and who in the world will do coffee hour next week? Some of these are big worries, some not so much!

But St. Andrew's continually surprises me... we put out a request for 15 desserts for an event and they appear; a parishioner needs help and a fellow parishioner steps forward; someone needs a hug or a willing ear to just listen and there is always one available.

The kindness and caring of this congregation is one of our greatest gifts and if we stay focused on that we will do spectacular things in our future together. It has been my honor and privilege to serve as one of your wardens these last 3 years and I am grateful for all the help and encouragement I have received through the good times and not so good times.

And don't be too sad, this may be my last "View from Your Warden" article, but you will be hearing from me again soon.....Fish Fry starts on February 12th!!

Thank you,
- Stacy Lampman

Catch the Force

A View from Your Junior Warden

Stay with me, and then I shall begin to shine as thou shinest; so to shine as to be a light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from thee. None of it will be mine. No merit to me. It will be thou who shinest through me upon others. O let me thus praise thee, in the way which thou dost love best, by shining on all those around me. Give light to them as well as to me; light them with me, through me. Teach me to show forth thy praise, thy truth, thy will. Make me to preach thee without preaching-not by words, but by my example and by the catching force, the sympathetic influence, of what I do-By my visible resemblance to thy saints, and the evident fullness of the love which my heart bears to thee.

- John Henry Newman

As we prepare for the yearly celebration of the arrival of Jesus Christ, the light of our world, I reflect upon the last three years as one of your wardens. The successes here at St. Andrew's are not because of my leadership, but because of God using me as one of his instruments. I have very little skill in buildings and grounds but those within this congregation have many skills which, when pooled, result in the beautiful worship space we share. You all "shine," so thank you for being a shaft of light that, through example, is guiding our

future leaders. Through Jesus' light-bearers, this church I love so dearly will carry on its mission. You have been "saints." Let us continue to catch the force and share the light with each other and our community. May more humble workers receive the call of the light and share their talents within our church.

Blessings,
- Cindy Harrington

Advent Prayer



*Dearest God, may this tree, strong and green and lovely,
be a sign to us of your everlasting love
and your joy in our world.*

A Vestry Service Thank You

Dear Friends in Christ,

Thank you for trusting me to represent you on Vestry during the last 3 years. This ministry of service has been both a privilege and a challenge. Even though I had been a vestry member some time ago, I still had to adjust to the differences that come with time: when decisions had been made by subsequent vestries, improved ways of reporting and communicating had evolved, and new ministries had materialized. It is a wonderful thing to witness growth and change in our vestry with regards to spirituality, acceptance of personal ministries of each other and members of the congregation, and unselfish willingness to take on unfamiliar duties from time to time. While on vestry I became much more aware of the needs and concerns facing our congregation weekly, monthly, and annually.

Sometimes, complacency comes with only sitting in a pew. One can feel invisible and too easily withdraw from stepping forward and taking some role of service for the church family. Serving on vestry has reminded me of the importance of each congregational member to find ways to move beyond only being served. Each of us is only one very small part, but a necessary part of the entire ministry of St. Andrews. Serving on vestry I have become much more aware of how important our individual roles outside of vestry are. Our vestry tries to provide the vision, the goals, and the guidance for encouraging good stewardship of all God has given us. It is only with the involvement of every man, woman, and child that we can fulfill our ongoing ministry of service to God and one another.

Faithfully,
- Dorothy Cheasty

Niagara Deanery Youth Group **Christmas Caroling!**



Sunday, December 13th, 1 - 4 p.m. (please note the time change)

Meet at Grace Church's Arnold House, 110 Genesee Street, Lockport at 1 p.m.

We will then walk or carpool to the Presbyterian Home (a few blocks away) for Christmas caroling from 1:15 to 3 p.m., returning afterwards for cookies and hot chocolate. Dress accordingly for the weather -- Invite a friend!

Our annual Deanery *Epiphany Gifts for Life Collection* will take place on **Sunday, January 3rd**. This year half of the donations will go to the Diocesan Disaster Relief Fund and half will go to Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD). Watch your Sunday bulletin for more information!

- Sarah Harrington,
Niagara Deanery Youth Missioner
www.eyouthwny.org

~~Mark Your Calendars~~

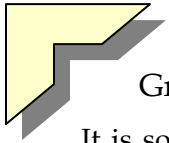
Sunday January 10th- Annual Un-Birthday Party!

*Bring a \$5 gift to exchange

Place- TBA 4-6:30pm

Sunday February 7th- Community Service- Valentine's Cookie-Making Extravaganza!

St. Andrew's, Burt 4-6:30pm



The Office Corner

Greetings from the Office

It is soon to be Christmas and the troops overseas really need to know that they are not forgotten. Our daughter Kelly Williams is currently stationed in Iraq with the US Air Force. She and about 43 of her fellow airmen have compiled a list of “goodies” that would make the holiday seem brighter. When any of them receive a package it is shared with everyone.

Here is the list:

- Beef Jerky
- Chocolate candy
- Cheetos: Flaming Hot!!!
- Mixed Nuts, Roasted Almonds, Honey Roasted Peanuts
- Magazines: Sports Illustrated, Fitness magazines, Gaming (Video) magazines
- Anything Homemade: Cookies, breads, you name it, they'll eat it!
- Pringles: all different flavors
- Deodorant: No 'AXE' kind. But other popular ones, Gillette, Degree, Old Spice.....
- Plastic Hooks: Sturdy ones that will stick well to the wall and are able to hold a jacket or something like that. We have no hooks in our rooms and with the weather turning colder and rainy, we would like to be able to hang things

up. Or, if you can find any, those 'over the door' hooks would be good. The smaller ones with 2 or 3 hooks, or I think they make little plastic individual ones.”

“These are just suggestions, of course. We appreciate anything you’d like to send. Please remember that the package must be addressed to a particular person. Packages addressed "Any Soldier" will **not** go through. I hope this helps.”

Love you, Kelly

There is a box in the narthex for collections and the items need to be mailed by the first part of December in order to reach them for Christmas. If anyone wants to send their own package Kelly’s address is:

**SSGT Kelly J. Williams
727 EACS OL-A
Co B. 1 Q-West
APO AE 09351**

Items currently in the Lost & Found are:

- ❖ A Man’s “Citizen” watch with a silver and gold colored band.
- ❖ A Child’s Blue & Grey Zipper sweatshirt size 8

- Mike Depew

“Jesus Is Coming”

Sunday School Happenings

The Choir of Angels

Almighty Creator, open our eyes to the glories of the world.

May we always be ready to be surprised by the universe and to see your hand at work in everything...

- from Prayers for Children, Compiled by Christopher Herbert (1994)

As Advent begins, our focus in Sunday School is to center ourselves in preparation of the Christ Child. “Jesus is coming”—both now at the time we celebrate his birth and at a time not known to us. One of our preparations this Advent will be exercised through a “thankfulness calendar” and mite box project with all donations going to the community food pantry. This collection will complement our regular weekly food offerings. All mite boxes will be turned in on Epiphany Sunday, January 3rd. Every family in the church is invited to

join our mite box project that will help feed the hungry in our community.

The youth of St. Andrew’s invite you to join us on Sunday, December 20th for a festival of Lessons and Carols presented by the youth. Students are busy preparing for this year’s special offering to Jesus. This service will be a beautiful and moving way to get ready because “Jesus is coming.” Invite a friend to church to share the magic of this special season.

Blessings, *The Sunday School Staff*

Advent Prayer



*In the Bible, Lord,
your stories sparkle with life;
may your words make us brilliant in word and deed,
that we may bring light to the world.*

In Thanksgiving . . .

Thank you from Tish Gooding: Thank you to the family of St. Andrew's for remembering me with prayers, cards, visits, and phone calls. Recovery is slower than I expected—must be my age!

Thank you from Darcy Buchanan:

The Bazaar is over and what a wonderful Bazaar it was. All of the booths looked fabulous!

A very special thank you to all the chairpersons and their helpers. Thank you also to the many who worked on preparations and to those who made and donated crafts, baskets, and food items. A sincere thank you to all who worked to prepare, serve, and clean up at the luncheon. Without everyone's help, this event would not have been possible, nor would it have been the success that it was.

The Ladies Guild will be giving donations to various charities for the holiday season from some of our profits.

Have a blessed and happy holiday! - *Darcy*

Thank you to Darcy Buchanan for organizing an extraordinary Bazaar this year.

Thank you to Doug Wintersteen for organizing our new St. Andrew's Gospel Band.

Thank you to Dorothy Cheasty and Doug Wintersteen, who are completing their terms on Vestry.

Thank you to Stacy Lampman and Cindy Harrington, who are completing their terms as Wardens.

Thank you to Joe Breczka, Jr. for leading us in the second annual Niagara Choral Festival at First English Lutheran Church in Lockport on All Saints' Sunday. **Thank you** to all the singers who joined the Festival Choir to make this a memorable event, and to Mike Depew for handling the planning details. We raised \$765 for *Food for the Poor*.

Congratulations to Judi Naylor upon the baptism of her grandson, Dash Naylor, in New York City.

Congratulations to Rachel Gregg upon being inducted into the National Honor Society.

Congratulations to Kelly Bochnewetch for being chosen to compete in the State Cross-Country Championships.

Congratulations to Margaret and Morris Moran who are now the Worthy Matron and Worthy Patron of the Angeles Chapter of the Eastern Star.

Congratulations to Matthew, Zachary, and Jacob Roeseler and the **Medina Mustang Marching Band** for placing first in their class to win the Governor's Cup in the New York State Field Band Conference Championship Competition at the Syracuse University Carrier Dome.



News and Notes



Family Advent Vespers – Thursday December 17th at 6:30 p.m. at St. John’s – We will have a new service this year, led by Jeff Edmister. This will be a brief, contemplative service designed to give us a quiet, refreshing pause in the middle of the busy holiday season; children are welcome either in the service or for a craft project in the parish hall.

2 Christmas Parties to celebrate the season together this year! Kevin Clark will be at the keyboard for the **Adult Christmas Party** hosted by Larry and Prudy Waters on **Friday December 11th, 7 p.m.**, \$7/person. FUN—FOOD—FELLOWSHIP! Bring a snack to share. Sign-up sheet will be in the narthex. And Lois and Allison Carter will host a **Family Carol Sing** on **Sunday December 6th beginning at 5 p.m.** Bring a dish or dessert to share.

Christmas Poinsettias- Orders are due by December 13th. \$15 each, RED ONLY. Checks should be made out to Pallister House, and given to Prudy Waters by **December 20th.** Sign up sheet will be in the narthex.

Christmas Pageant – We will have a simple Christmas Pageant during our Service of Lessons and Carols on **December 20th.** All musicians, readers, and children in costume will have a practice with a pizza lunch on **Saturday December 19th, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.**

St. Andrew’s Gospel Band – If you would like to join this new musical group at St. Andrew’s please see Doug Wintersteen. The band will play during our service on **Epiphany Sunday, January 3rd.**

Book Group – will meet on **Thursday, January 14th at 7 p.m.** to discuss *The Red Tent* by Anita Diamant. Please see Stacy to learn more.

Dick Pascoe’s 90th Birthday Party – After the service on **January 24th,** Dick Pascoe’s family will host a party so that we can celebrate with Dick. Please mark your calendars for this special celebration.

Sundays Live at St. Andrew’s – Sunday, January 24th at 6 p.m. *Daughters of Creative Sound*, an African American women’s percussion ensemble will perform. Watch for more information.

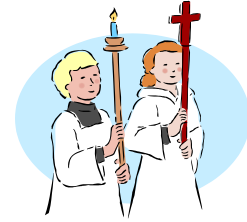
Christmas Tree – Please see Judith+ or Mike Depew if you can contribute to purchasing the Christmas tree for the sanctuary this year. We will set up the tree on **Saturday December 19th.**

Advent Expectancy

*In the darkness we can see the tiniest glimmer of light.
We’re in a tunnel, a long, dark tunnel,
but at the end there is the light of Christmas
As we journey towards that light,
keep us unafraid of the darkness.
Give us courage and honesty
in facing the truths of our world,
So that we may come to the Christ child
with our lives full of hope.*

Schedules for December 2009

Acolytes - 10:00 a.m. arrival time



- 6st Seth Gregg, Chad Gilson, Matthew Vogt, Mark Vogt
 13th Michael Vogt, Matthew Roeseler, Jarrett Gilson
 20th Melissa Pestinger, Jacob Roeseler, Jake Knott

Note: Christmas Eve service is at 6 p.m. please be at church and vested by 5:30

- 24th Mrs. Villeneuve, Jake Knott, Jarrett Gilson
 27th Zachary Roeseler, Seth Gregg, Chad Gilson

A Note from your Acolyte Director: This is an open invitation to ALL those interested in becoming an acolyte. Anyone from the age of 7 through adult is welcome to join our team. If you are 7 you would be the 4th acolyte on your assigned weekend and you would process, recess and observe and help with some easy tasks. Anyone 8 and older will be in training as an acolyte; you will sit at the altar watching for the first few times; then as you feel more comfortable you will be given a job to do.

- Sue Villeneuve

Lay Readers

- 6th Dorothy Cheasty & Jerry Harrington
 13th Matt Pestinger & Jeff Edmister
 20th Jerry Harrington & Margaret Moran
 24th Judi Naylor & Jeff Edmister
 27th Jeff Edmister & Stacy Lampman

Altar Guild

Stacy Lampman & Liz Gilson

Collection Counters

Stacy Lampman & Bill Buchanan

Greeters

Please Sign Up for any Sunday in December

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES for December



Birthdays

- | | |
|--|--|
| 2 nd Dorothy Hass | 16 th Karen Bucolo |
| 3 rd Martin Schulze | 21 st Rachel Jocks & Brianna Gallo |
| 5 th Jerry Mazanka | 25 th Natalie Beilein |
| 6 th Rachel Gregg & Frances Tracey | 27 th Hayden Gooding |
| 10 th Sarah Harrington & Jeffrey Phipps | 28 th Justin Bedford |
| 12 th Sandy Smith | 30 th Andrew Wruck |
| 14 th Sarah Leibring | 31 st Larry Waters & Father J. Robert Jackson |

Anniversaries



- 28th William & Natalie Beilein
 Marty & Kathy Gregg
 31st Mark & Kathy Vogt

Dates to Remember



- December 5** 11 a.m. St. Nicholas Day celebration at St. Paul's Cathedral
- December 6** Annual Parish Meeting at St. John's – Judith+ will stay at St. John's
The Rev. Carole Grant-White will be celebrant and preacher
12:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting
5 p.m. Family Carol Sing at the Carter's. Bring a dish or dessert to share
- December 11** 7 p.m. Christmas Party hosted by Prudy and Larry Waters
- December 13** 12:30 Jeff Edmister's Discernment Group
1-4 p.m. Deanery Youth Group: Caroling at the Presbyterian Home in Lockport and refreshments at Grace Church
4 p.m. Lock City Glee Club Concert at Christ Church
- December 16** 7 p.m. Vestry Meeting
- December 17** 6:30 p.m. Family Advent Vespers at St. John's
- December 19** 11 - 1 Pageant Practice & Pizza
2 p.m. Caroling with St. Andrew's Choir
- December 20** 10:30 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols with the Christmas Pageant
- December 24** 5:40 p.m. Carols and Service of Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew's
10:40 p.m. Carols & Service of Holy Eucharist at St. John's
- December 25** 10 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist at St. John's
- December 27** 10:30 a.m. Jeff Edmister will preach
- December 31** 11 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist with prayers for healing at St. John's
6 p.m. New Year's Eve Service of Thanksgiving at St. Andrew's

Looking Ahead



- January 2** We welcome **Xavier Mack in Holy Baptism**
- January 3** **Epiphany Sunday – Full Acolyte Procession**
St. Andrew's Gospel Band will perform
Deanery Youth *Gifts for Life* Collection
- January 7** Deadline for Submission of Annual Reports
- January 10** 4-6:30 p.m. Deanery Youth Group Meeting
- January 17** Annual Parish Meeting
- January 18** Office Closed to observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 24** Celebration of Dick Pascoe's 90th birthday
Sundays Live at St. Andrew's
- January 25** 7 p.m. Deanery Council Meeting

Advent Prayer



*In the darkness we can see the tiniest glimmer of light.
We're in a tunnel, a long, dark tunnel, but at the end there is the light of Christmas.*

Episcopal Diocese of Western New York Convention 2009:

A Youth Perspective

This year, I was asked to be the youth representative for the Niagara Deanery for Diocesan Convention. Two straight days of meetings about budgets, church business, and a two hour video about the slave trade. Doesn't sound like a lot of fun for a teenager, right? Wrong. Going to Convention this year was the best choice I have ever made. I got to see first-hand how decisions are made in the diocese and I learned the most efficient ways to run a business meeting. In addition, I saw how democracy works and what exactly happens when you bring together many people who care about each other.

One of the resolutions this year was whether or not to add about \$2,000 in seed money for youth mission trips. This was met with some opposition from the body. One member stood at the microphone and passed around a basket, challenging the others to raise the money that day. Within half an hour, we had raised \$2,009 in donations alone. The same member got back up to the microphone and challenged Diocesan Council to match it. I went to Convention thinking that the youth would never get any more

money in the budget. When I heard the final count for what we had raised in the impromptu fundraiser, I was touched by the generosity of everyone in attendance. The motion passed very shortly after.

The combined dioceses' of New York are working on gaining the necessary votes to convince Albany to allow the youth delegates to vote. Of the six dioceses, three have passed the resolution for two consecutive years. Currently, youth delegates have seat in the meeting and voice to speak up for or against a resolution.

But even if the youth never get the vote, I encourage any high school student to attend. You learn so much about the democratic process and public speaking just by being there. I had the opportunity to see old friends and start up new relationships with many people from the Episcopal Church. No matter who you are, youth or adult, definitely consider going to Convention in 2010.

- Rachel Gregg

News from Claudia at General Seminary

This is the busiest semester of the six I will spend here at General Theological Seminary, and so far so good! I made it through midterms relatively whole, and as I write this I'm recovering from two days sick in bed with the flu. Despite that, there is a sense of calm which was missing other semesters—I know that all the work will get done, and I know my friends will come through with notes from classes I'd missed and any other assistance I need.

The Homeless Shelter is finally up and running, after a long period searching for volunteer staffers. Being the Volunteer Coordinator for the shelter, I was concerned it might not open at all, but in the end students stepped up to the plate. Last year we hosted men, but this year the need was great for accommodations for women, so we have seven women, seven nights per week. I never thought I'd find myself so deeply involved in this ministry, but answering

God's call doesn't mean we aren't continually called over and over again!

My preaching classes are wonderful, and I'm preparing now for my first sermon at my Manhattan parish on the First Sunday of Advent. Advent for me has always been a powerful time of discernment, of receiving my commission from God, and finding Jesus anew in my life. Now, for the first time I will get to preach during this liturgical season, and it's an enormous challenge, but one for which I'm grateful. I hope I can express God's call to each of us not only from the pulpit, but also from my life and work every day.

As far as my ordination process goes, I've now advanced from Postulant to Candidate. Keep me in your prayers, as you are all in mine,

- Claudia Koczka

The Twelve Days of Christmas

This very interesting carol originated as a Hebrew hymn, which begins, "In those twelve days ..." The hymn was originally arranged as a dialogue between cantor and choir. Each of the verses was repeated like the nursery rhyme "This is the house that Jack built." In the Middle Ages, the song was rewritten in Latin with Christian images. The final verse and its English translation:

<i>Dic mihi quid duodecim?</i>	<i>Tell me, what are the twelve things?</i>
<i>Duodecim apostele</i>	<i>Twelve apostles;</i>
<i>Undecim stellae A Joesphon visae;</i>	<i>Eleven stars seen by Joseph;</i>
<i>Decem mandate Dei;</i>	<i>Ten Commandments of God;</i>
<i>Novem angelorum chori;</i>	<i>Nine choirs of angels;</i>
<i>Octo beatitudines;</i>	<i>Eight beatitudes;</i>
<i>Septem sacramenta;</i>	<i>Seven sacraments;</i>
<i>Sex hydriae positae In Cana Galileae;</i>	<i>Six water jars in Cana Galilee;</i>
<i>Quinque libri Moyses;</i>	<i>Five Books of Moses;</i>
<i>Quartuor evangelistae;</i>	<i>Four Evangelists;</i>
<i>Tres patriarchae;</i>	<i>Three Patriarchs;</i>
<i>Duo testamenta;</i>	<i>Two Testaments;</i>
<i>Unus est Deus, Qui regnat in Coelis.</i>	<i>One God who reigns in Heaven.</i>

By 1645, an English version of the Latin hymn had appeared, and by the 18th Century, that had, in turn, become the Christmas carol we know today. (*The English Carol*, by Erik Routley, pp. 75-76, 237). One author describes this traditional English carol as a catechetical mnemonic device, a memory aid, that Catholics used to teach their children the truths of the faith during the years that the Catholic faith was suppressed in England. The numerical symbolism, which follows closely on the Latin version, goes like this:

A Partridge in a pear tree-- The One True God;
Two turtle doves -- Old and New Testaments;
Three French hens -- Three Persons of the Trinity (or the Three Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.)
Four colley birds (colley means black) -- the Four Evangelists, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John;
Five gold rings -- the first five books of the Bible, believed to be written by Moses, called the Pentateuch;
Six geese a-laying -- six jars of water, turned to wine by Jesus at the wedding at Cana;
Seven swans a-swimming-- seven Sacraments;
Eight maids a-milking -- eight Beatitudes;
Nine ladies dancing -- nine Choirs (or ranks) of Angels;
Ten lords a-leaping -- Ten Commandments;
Eleven pipers piping -- eleven faithful disciples (not including Judas), or the eleven stars seen in the Old Testament account of Joseph's dream;
Twelve drummers drumming -- twelve Apostles, or the twelve tribes of Israel.

Women for Faith & Family
Celebrating 25 years of service to the orthodox Roman Catholic Church
1984-2009

Advent and Christmastide at St. Andrew's and St. John's

November 29 1st Sunday of Advent

December 5 11 a.m. St. Nicholas Day at the Cathedral

December 6 2nd Sunday of Advent & St. Nicholas Day

Annual Parish Meeting at St. John's

The Rev. Carole Grant-White will be celebrant and preacher at St. Andrew's

5 p.m. Family Carol Sing at the Carter's

Bring a dish or dessert to share

December 11 7 p.m. Adult Christmas Party at the Waters'

Kevin Clark at the piano

\$7 per person Bring a snack to share

December 13 3rd Sunday of Advent

1-4 p.m. Deanery Youth Group Caroling

4 p.m. Lock City Glee Club Concert at Christ Church

December 17 6:30 p.m. Advent Vespers at St. John's

December 19 11 a.m.- 1 p.m. Pageant Practice & Pizza at St. Andrew's

2 p.m. Caroling with the St. Andrew's Choir

December 20 4th Sunday of Advent

Greening of the Church & and Cookie Exchange at St. John's

Lessons & Carols with Pageant at St. Andrew's

Pot-luck luncheon and greening of the church at St. Andrew's

December 24 Christmas Eve

5:40 p.m. Carols and Service of Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew's

10:40 p.m. Carols and Service of Holy Eucharist at St. John's

December 25 Christmas Day

10 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist at St. John's

December 31 New Year's Eve

11 a.m. Service of Holy Eucharist at St. John's

January 3 Epiphany Sunday

ADVENT PRAYER

How beautiful
to walk in the steps of our Savior
led in paths of light

Master of both the light and the darkness,
send your Holy Spirit upon our preparations for Christmas.

We who have so much to do
seek quiet spaces to hear your voice each day.

We who are anxious over many things
look forward to your coming among us.

We who are blessed in so many ways
long for the complete joy of your kingdom.

We whose hearts are heavy
seek the joy of your presence.

We are your people, walking in darkness,
yet seeking the light.

To you we say,
Come Lord Jesus!

Amen.

Henri J.M. Nouwen