



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

## Your Vicar's View ☩

*I wonder, as I wander out under the sky  
How Jesus the Savior had come for to die  
For poor orn'ry creatures like you and like I  
I wonder as I wander out under the sky*

*When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall  
With wise men and shepherds and farmers and all  
And high in the heavens a star's light did fall  
'Twas the promise of the ages, it then did recall.*

These words have been running through my mind as I prepare for Advent. Their haunting expression of wonder and longing captures for me the meaning of this season. The history of the song reminded me that we never know the wondrous effects of our smallest acts and our chance encounters.

According to Wikipedia, the carol has its origins in a song fragment collected on July 16, 1933 by folklorist and singer John Jacob Niles. While in the town of Murphy in Appalachian North Carolina, Niles attended a fundraising meeting held by evangelicals who had been ordered out of town by the police. In his unpublished autobiography, he wrote of hearing the song:

*A girl had stepped out to the edge of the little platform attached to the automobile. She began to sing. Her clothes were unbelievably dirty and ragged, and she, too, was unwashed. Her ash-blond hair hung down in long skeins.... But, best of all, she was beautiful, and in her untutored way, she could sing. She smiled as she sang, smiled rather sadly, and sang only a single line of a song.*

The girl, named Annie Morgan, repeated the fragment seven times in exchange for a quarter per performance. Based on this fragment, Niles composed the version of "I Wonder as I Wander" that is known today, extending the melody to four lines and the lyrics to three stanzas.

*If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing  
Like a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing  
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing  
Well, he surely could have had them, for he was their king.*

*I wonder as I wander out under the sky  
How Jesus the Savior had come for to die  
For poor orn'ry creatures like you and like I  
I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.*

*I wonder . . . .*

Could Annie Morgan have known that her singing would touch the heart of a stranger so deeply?

What grace—and longing—do we share with the young girl who sang 78 years ago for less than two dollars in a town most of us have never heard of?

What did Annie Morgan hope for? Did she feel like a wanderer all the rest of her life?

*I wonder . . .*

How any of us can ever walk away from a God who has given us the gift of hope in which our wonder and longing rest--

- a God who has promised to be revealed in the obscure and untended "stables" of our lives
- a God who has promised a guiding light no matter how dark the night in which we wander
- a God who has promised that there is no person and no place too humble for new life.

May all of us, "orn'ry creatures" that we are, wonder as we wander in the coming weeks.

*Judith*

## *A Long, Strange Trip*

### **Your Warden's View**

*"Lately it occurs to me: What a long, strange trip it's been."*

I've been looking back and reflecting on my 5 years on the Vestry for St. Andrew's: three years as a member of the Vestry and two years as Warden. My feelings vary from a little fatigue at times to a deep sense of pride over what we, as a church, have accomplished.

At one time during that reflection, these words from a famous Grateful Dead song popped into my mind. My initial reaction was to start my newsletter article with these words, just to be funny. But hidden in those words are some truths as well.

Right now we are a strong, vibrant church. Our membership is growing and our youth participation is significant in number and in enthusiasm! Our music ministry is expanding, and we have kept our education programs vibrant to meet the needs of our church. Financially we have reduced our deficit by a minimum of \$5,000 each year while I was on the Vestry. We are on track to be "in the black" for

two years in a row, while maintaining and even growing in our religious programs at St. Andrew's.

All of those milestones were not surprising, and were expected, at least in my mind. Those are the expectations we as a congregation have of our leadership team. What was surprising to me in this journey was that as I became more active in St. Andrew's through the Vestry and the music programs, my faith grew as well.

My belief system is aligned with a quote I heard some time ago, "We need to pray like it's all up to God, and work like it's all up to us".

I found myself working harder for St. Andrew's and praying more.

While I am a little tired, I'm excited about our new slate of nominees for Vestry and Warden for next year. We are adding some fresh, new leadership to an already good team. I hope they find a similar revelation in their journey.

- Doug Wintersteen

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## *A Time For Reflection and Anticipation*

### **Your Deacon's View**

We now begin the season of Advent, a time for reflection and anticipation as we prepare for the birth of our Savior. At Thanksgiving, we gathered and offered our thanks to God for all the blessings we have received. Together, we have meditated on our God-given gifts and skills and how we must be stewards of those gifts.

We will be helping families this Christmas with gifts of clothing and toys for the children to brighten their day, and a holiday meal that they might not have had. We hope these gifts remind them that God loves them.

I look forward to attending the Christmas party at Collins Correctional on Friday evening December 23<sup>rd</sup> with all the inmates who have attended one of the Christian retreat weekends. The joy that is in their hearts as they await the gift of the Christ Child is one of my best Christmas presents.

I wish for all of you a Blessed and Joyous Christmas.

Blessings,  
- Deacon Rocky



### **Money Matters - Treasurer's Report**

In the past newsletter you read that we would soon have a more convenient method of making donations to St. Andrew's. We will soon be adding a PayPal link to our website and Facebook page. This will be a convenient method to pay a pledge, make a memorial donation, or make a donation for a special event or purpose electronically. You will be able to use it as often or as little as you like. We are almost ready to test out this new system and should soon have it up and running.

#### **Financial Status as of October 31, 2011**

Total Expenses	\$115,580
Actual Income	\$100,963
Income equals	87.4% of Expenses

- Mike Depew

# Sunday School



## Reclaiming the season for our children

If there's one season that the church desperately needs to reclaim, it's Advent. Every year, it seems like stores display the Christmas decorations earlier and earlier, starting at the end of September this year. They used to wait at least until after Halloween, but not anymore.

Christmas has always been my favorite season of the year, and when I first heard about some of the concepts of Advent, especially some ideas of waiting to display decorations, doing things in stages and so forth, I was skeptical, and worried that my favorite holiday would be diminished. Instead, I discovered quite the opposite. Practicing Advent as a time of waiting and reflection adds to the season in many ways.

A typical Christmas season is filled with parties, events, special services at church, parties at school, parties at the office, and did I mention, parties? Oh, and the seemingly never-ending Christmas shopping with all of its intricate balances of what did I get him/her last year, did he/she give me anything, should I get so-and-so something this year because they gave me something last year and I feel bad about not giving them anything and on and on.

Something in me recoils at this sort of activity as much as I love to give people gifts. But somehow gift-giving at Christmas all too often becomes an exercise in obligation and debt instead of joyfully reaching out to people in celebration of our Savior's birth and expectation of his return.

And I have to ask, with this sort of activity as the norm in our culture: *What exactly are we modeling for our kids?*

If Advent is supposed to be in some ways like Lent, a time of expectation and reflection, then what of that ethos are we teaching those younger than us who are looking up to us for clues on how life is to be lived?

## Slow down and make space

What if instead of shopping for trinkets just to have something to give to so-and-so, we sat down and wrote them a letter instead? Takes too much time? How much time do we spend fighting crowds in shopping malls during the average Christmas season?

What if instead of dragging our kids with us on one of these mass shopping experiences, we made a point to volunteer for a few hours at an organization that gives Christmas things to families that can't afford them?

What if we made a point of bringing an Advent wreath and the devotional times that can go along with that into the home and used it as a starting point for some sort of regular family devotionals?

What would it look like if this season could be one of less stress instead of more stress? One of more time with God, instead of less?

What if instead of gorging our own kids on gifts on Christmas morning, we taught them something about moderation and helped them donate some money to an organization to help needy children instead of spending it all on things for them that they probably don't really need?

Am I just saying get rid of the gifts, or stick with socks and underwear for presents? Not at all! We serve a God who loves to give good gifts to his children and to do that in abundance beyond even what we need. But he also loves to see his children following in his example, and during this season of Advent, that's something we can help our children and teens to start living into.

## Learning to wait

Other ways we can heighten the expectation is by not putting out all of our decorations at once. We can space it out so that the amount grows as each week of Advent passes. Many families already do this with their nativity scenes, even keeping the wise men out of the picture until Epiphany, and thus prolonging the season after December 25th all the way to its proper ending on January 6th (Epiphany). We can put the tree up later, decorate it in stages, space out opening presents from Christmas Eve all the way to Epiphany and making sure that each present is enjoyed completely instead of being immediately set aside while the next one is ripped into.

Note, all of these are just ideas. Each of us can figure out what works best with our family, developing our own Advent traditions as we go along. It's simply important, I believe, to figure out some ways of practicing Advent with our kids that make it stand out as a season of waiting, of reflection, and of expectation, all things that require us to slow down and purposefully step out of the overwhelming rush of the way our country dives headlong into the Christmas season.

If the whole purpose of the Advent season is to celebrate the birth and second coming of Jesus, then shouldn't all we do in the Advent season be centered around him? What would that look like?

- The Sunday School Staff

# Vestry Highlights

November 9, 2011

## Resolved:

- ✓ To provide tuition for Reannon Rohring to take Education for Ministry (EfM) -\$340 for 2012. Funds will be drawn from Special Envelope Offerings. If the year is not completed, a proportional percentage of the funding will be reimbursed to St. Andrew's.
- ✓ To give \$1000 to the Newfane Community Food Pantry from the Outreach line
- ✓ Authorized up to \$250 to cover the mailing costs for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes

## Discussion:

- ✓ Deacon Rocky reported on Diocesan Convention, saying that it was a great success
- ✓ Deacon Rocky is Diocesan Coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development, and reported on 2012 plans; ER-D will have a Lenten campaign, and ECS will move their campaign to Eastertide
- ✓ The Nomination Team proposed some candidates for Warden and Vestry.
- ✓ Proposed the following change in St. Andrew's by-Laws:



**Current language:** *Each nominee for Warden shall . . . have served at least one year as Vestry member in any Episcopal church . . .*

**Proposed language**—*It is recommended that a nominee shall have served at least one year as Vestry member in any Episcopal Church, and it is required that he or she shall have received training in the polity of the Episcopal Church.*

- ✓ We will explore whether or not to do fundraising so that our acolytes can attend the 2013 National Acolyte Festival in Washington DC.
- ✓ The Finance Team will meet on December 1<sup>st</sup> to propose the 2012 budget

## Agenda for December:

- ✓ Reports on the estimated costs for Sanctuary Renovation
- ✓ Report on the feasibility of a National Grid program for energy efficiency
- ✓ Approval of Letters of Agreement
- ✓ Plans for Annual Parish Meeting to be held on January 15, 2011

	<p><b>Adult Christmas Party</b> Friday, Decemeber 2, 2011 at 7 p.m. <i>Fun Food Fellowship</i></p> <p>The party will be at the Waters' residence with Kevin Clark at the keyboard The cost is only \$7.50 each Bring a snack to share ~ Beverages provided A sign-up sheet is posted in the Narthex. Hope to see you there!</p>	
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## Paying It Forward

### Stewardship Reflection

One of my guilty pleasures is to sit with a cup of coffee in the morning and do the daily crossword puzzle. The other morning the clue was "STEWARD." The correct answer was "CUSTODIAN." And it made me think that this is exactly right. As stewards of all God has given to us, we are custodians. We are here to cultivate and care for our gifts and then to pass them on, hopefully in better condition than when we received them. Paying it forward.

As stewards here at St Andrew's we are called to take who we are and what we have and offer it back to God as we support St Andrew's. We need to offer back so that St Andrew's is strong for coming generations and strong to reach out to the community.

I hope that some morning as I sip coffee and struggle with my crossword puzzle I will see the clue "STEWARDS" and the correct answer will be "ST. ANDREW'S."

- Diane Dworak

**The Church Christmas Tree is being donated by the St. Andrew's Men's Breakfast Group.**

*Thank you gentlemen for your generosity again this year!*



## **Book Club**

*Snow Day*

by Billy Coffey

**Thursday, December 19th at 7 p.m.  
at Stacy's House**



## **News and Notes**



**SCRIP SUNDAY – December 11** - As you plan your holiday shopping, please consider purchasing cards from Deacon Rocky. He will collect orders on **December 11** and bring the cards to you on **December 18**.

**Advent Calendars** – This year, thanks to the suggestion of the Covenant Team, we have an Advent Calendar with daily meditations compiled by members of St. John's & St. Andrew's and designed by Lynn Schauer-Bewley. We have included a calendar in this newsletter, and copies are available in the narthex.

**Book Club – 7 p.m. on January 19<sup>th</sup>** at Stacy Lampman's. The book for discussion is *Snow Day* by Bill Coffey.

**Dinner at the Van Horn Mansion to Benefit Our Little Roses** - We will raffle tickets to a dinner for 8 at the Van Horn Mansion; the drawing will be at St. Andrew's on **Epiphany Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>**. The dinner will be scheduled at the winner's convenience. It will include hors d'oeuvres, a 7-course dinner served in the mansion's elegant dining room, using the best china, crystal, and silver. Consider purchasing a ticket as a gift for a friend: it will be the gift of a fantasy evening in one of the area's most grand settings. See Lois Carter, Diane Dworak or Cindy Harrington for more information.

**Discretionary Funds** – Deacon Rocky and Pastor Judith+ have discretionary funds that are used to provide for people in need; we pay bills, provide gas and grocery cards, and help people through tight times in any way that we are able. We have more calls than usual during the holiday season, and our funds are running low. Please consider contributing to these accounts; write a check to St. Andrew's with "Vicar's Discretionary Account" or "Deacon's Discretionary Account" on the memo line.

### **Thank you**

To **Kathy Massie** and her team for planning such a successful new Parish Directory

To **Stacy Lampman** and the Stewardship Team for a Stewardship Campaign that brought in 99% participation.

To **Darcy Buchanan** and her team for organizing the most successful Bazaar ever.

To **Lynn Schauer-Bewley** for designing our new Parish Directory & our Advent Calendar

To **Doug Wintersteen** for writing a song in tribute to our young musicians (printed in this newsletter on Page 12)

To the **Men's Breakfast Group** for donating the Christmas tree for the sanctuary

To **Prudy and Larry Waters** for hosting the Christmas Party again this year

To **Joe Breczka Jr., Amanda Scott, Mike Depew, Jean Mayer** and the entire choir for planning and organizing our successful Ecumenical Choral Festival. We hosted 85 choristers from 9 choirs and 2 bell choirs; we raised about \$850. For Food for the Poor and 2 carloads of food for our community Food Pantries. **Community Missions** produced and donated the flyers & programs.

### **Congratulations**

To **Zachary Roeseler** for performing in the Medina Mustang Marching Band which won the first place Governor's Cup in their division of the 2011 NYS Field Band Competition at Syracuse University.

### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

Flowers available through Pallister House of Lockport

Cost remains at \$35.00

Please give your check to Prudy Waters or mail to:

Pallister House

41 East Avenue

Lockport, New York 14094



*(Please let Prudy know that you have paid for flowers, if mailing check directly to Pallister House)*

# Lock City Glee Club Concert

**Event:** The 7th Annual Christmas Concert

**When:** Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at 3 pm

**Where:** Lockport Alliance Church, 555 Davison Road, Lockport, NY

For the 7<sup>th</sup> of our annual Christmas Concert series the Lock City Glee Club will perform at the Lockport Alliance Church, on the corner of Davison Rd and East High St, in Lockport, the 4<sup>th</sup> of December, 2011 at 3pm. A reception follows the concert and a warm welcome is extended for all to join the festivities.

The Glee Club is directed by Gary Few and our Accompanist is Patti Dickinson. This year's theme is A Merry Little Christmas, and the Glee Club is preparing a program to include Christmas favorites and secular tunes. The audience can share in singing some enduring carols as well. Joining our concert this year will be Diane Dick, featuring hand bells that surely will help you ring in the Christmas spirit. We welcome her talents and pleasantly await the special music she is preparing for the holiday.

Many of the Glee Club followers have enjoyed this series as an addition to their annual Christmas celebrations and we hope to make it one that all people around the area come to enjoy.

This concert is free and open to the public. A free will donation will be accepted to help defray the costs.

If you have further questions, feel free to contact Gary Few, Mike Depew or call Paul Bencal (216-4039) or Ric Addenbrooke (778-9412).

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## St. Andrew's Photo Directory Update



Thank you to everyone who took time to have a photo taken by LifeTouch or submitted a photo for the 2011 St. Andrew's Photo Directory. Seventy-four photos will be included along with seven "activity" photo pages. A free directory will be given to each photographed family at the Annual Meeting on January 15, 2012.

Thank you to Lynn Schauer-Bewley who managed all the computer layout and candid photography and to Flo Phipps, Sarah Harrington, and Kathy Vogt for recruiting the greeters on photo shoot days. It was truly a TEAM effort!

- Kathy Massie

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## Advent Meditation

by Liz Depew

"Follow your bliss." What is bliss? The dictionary defines bliss as extreme happiness or ecstasy. Another meaning of bliss is the ecstasy of salvation or spiritual joy. At one time, I sensed there was a great truth buried within that simple notion that somewhere, out there, was that "thing" that would bring true happiness, true joy, fulfillment, and purpose. I imagined it would eventually be found in that perfect career, the most prestigious accomplishments, the hard-earned reputation, the envied lifestyle.

It took many years for me to understand that the goal was not to "FIND your bliss." Bliss was not some prize to be discovered at the end of the journey. Rather, following one's bliss is the journey itself. *It is the "way" that Jesus speaks of in the Gospel of John. It is the path that we make*

*straight for the coming of Christ into our lives each Advent.* It is the journey that takes us to surprising places and encounters with surprising people. It is a journey in which one must travel lightly and leave much behind: self-centeredness, lusts for material possessions, the need for prestige, our contempt for others, and our own sense of self-importance. When we do lighten our pack, we open ourselves to true life and we find that we are already on the journey toward bliss -- toward that life-affirming and transforming experience of God's love.



This Advent, why not encourage ourselves to prepare our hearts in this time of waiting by challenging all of us to discover our bliss and follow it wherever it might take us.

# CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE

In the true meaning of Christmas your vestry has endorsed a new Christmas outreach program. We will be “adopting” a local family that needs assistance to make this a merry Christmas for their children. We will provide gifts and their Christmas dinner.

Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> a small Giving Tree was put up in the narthex. On the tree were tags with a child’s name and suggested gift and a food item. Please take a tag or two, and return unwrapped gifts and food items to the church by Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>. Anyone who would like to contribute money to purchase last minute perishable food items may do so by writing a check to St. Andrew's with *Giving Tree* on the memo line.

If you have any questions, please contact Di Dworak.

	<b><i>Christmas Poinsettias</i></b> 3 sizes available: 6" multi-bloom = \$7.25; 7½", 2 plants/pot = \$10.25; 10", 4 plants/pot = \$19 Red ~ White ~ Pink Orders due by Dec. 1st Make checks payable to <i>Beutel Greenhouses</i> and give to Prudy Waters Sign up sheet in the Narthex Thanks! ~ Prudy	
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## Diocesan Convention Report:

I had the privilege to represent our congregation at the Diocesan Convention this year. Diocesan Convention is a two-day event in which the nitty-gritty business of our diocese is presented and voted on by chosen representatives from each congregation. While there is a main legislative purpose to this gathering, it is also a time to connect with Episcopalians from all over Western New York. This year’s convention

helped to connect each parish through the sharing of stories. This storytelling element was new and truly helped create a feeling of community and compassion within the gathering. Our diocese is large and diverse, yet each unique story highlighted our common struggles and hopes for the future. Some of the wider themes I walked away reflecting on were those of trusting in God, hanging in

there, listening to all the voices and needs of our congregation and larger community, and being willing to be inspired by challenges and the unexpected. When faced with a crisis we are often afraid of losing our Episcopalian identity, but the stories shared revealed that by God’s grace our struggles often lead to positive changes that create an even more vibrant community of faith.

- Sarah Harrington

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## Special Bazaar Thank You's

The Bazaar is over and once again it was a great success. All of the booths looked wonderful, the help was excellent, and the food was super. A very special thank you to all the chairpersons and their helpers. Thank you also to the many who worked on preparations, and those who made and donated crafts, baskets, and food items. A sincere thank you to all who worked to prepare, serve and clean up for the luncheon. Without everyone’s help this event would not be possible, nor would it be the success that it is. The Ladies Guild will again be giving donations to various charities for the holiday season from our Bazaar profits. Have a blessed and happy holiday!

- Darcy, Bazaar Chairperson

A note to one and all who contributed to the basket auction for the bazaar. We are taught to give of our time and talent. Believe me, we have seen an abundance of both. There was a total of 46 baskets and the variety of ideas and presentation was amazing.. The auction would never be possible without all your help, and for that we extend to everyone a great big thank you and God Bless.

- Joyce & Flo, Basket co-chairpersons.

## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES for December



### Birthdays

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Dorothy Hass	14 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah Leibring
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Martin Schulze	21 <sup>st</sup>	Rachel Jocks & Brianna Gallo
5 <sup>th</sup>	Jerry Mazanka	24 <sup>th</sup>	Jonathan Colley
6 <sup>th</sup>	Rachel Gregg Frances Tracey	25 <sup>th</sup>	Natalie Beilein
9 <sup>th</sup>	William Colley	28 <sup>th</sup>	Justin Bedford
10 <sup>th</sup>	Norma Jean Logan	30 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Wruck
11 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah Harrington Jeffrey Phipps	31 <sup>st</sup>	Larry Waters Father J. Robert Jackson
12 <sup>th</sup>	Sandy Smith		

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### Anniversaries



15 <sup>th</sup>	Paul & Kay Mayer
28 <sup>th</sup>	William & Natalie Beilein <i>and</i> Marty & Kathy Gregg
31 <sup>st</sup>	Mark & Kathy Vogt

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## Schedules for December 2011



### *Acolytes* - 10:00 AM arrival time

- 4<sup>th</sup> - Michael Vogt, Matthew Vogt, Jacob Roeseler
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Procession and Recession only, no Communion  
Jocie Lyon, Olivia Mazanka, Mark Vogt,
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Zachary Roeseler, Jarrett Gilson, Jonathan Pestinger
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Please let me know who would like to serve at the 6 p.m.. service - *Sue Villeneuve*

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### *Lay Readers*

- 4<sup>th</sup> - Dorothy Cheasty & Lisa Roeseler
- 11<sup>th</sup> - Lynn Schauer-Bewley & Shirley Litz
- 18<sup>th</sup> - Stacy Lampman & Lynn Schauer-Bewley
- 24<sup>th</sup> - Lisa Roeseler & Diane Dworak

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### *Altar Guild*

Cheryl Knapp & Sue Villeneuve

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### *Collection Counters*

Stacy Lampman & Bill Buchanan

## Dates to Remember



- December 2** 7 p.m. Adult Christmas Party at the Waters'
- December 3** 11 a.m.-4 p.m. *Handmade for the Holidays*: Holiday Crafts Bazaar & Basket Raffle at St. John's: Local crafters benefit *Home Away From Home Feline Shelter*  
2-4 p.m. Christmas Pageant Practice at St. Andrew's
- December 4** **Second Sunday of Advent**  
Annual Parish Meeting at St. John's
- December 11** **Third Sunday of Advent**  
9 a.m. Holy Eucharist at St. John's – without music  
10:30 a.m. Advent Service of Lessons and Carols with Christmas Pageant at St. Andrew's  
Deadline for Holiday SCRIP cards
- December 14** Deadline for all gifts to the Newfane Community Food Pantry  
7 p.m. St. Andrew's Vestry meeting
- December 18** **Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
Hanging of the Christmets at St. John's  
Greening of the Church at St. John's with Cookie Exchange  
Greening of the Church at St. Andrew's with potluck brunch  
Deadline for Food donations to Newfane Community Food Pantry  
Deadline for Christmas Gift Tree donations
- December 24** **Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord**  
5:40 p.m. Carols at St. Andrew's  
6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew's  
10:40 p.m. Carols at St. John's  
11:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist at St. John's
- December 25** **Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord**  
10 a.m. Joint service of Holy Eucharist for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord at St. John's

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## Looking Ahead



- January 1** **The Feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ**
- January 8** **Epiphany Sunday**  
Service at St. Andrew's begins at 10:45 a.m. Full Acolyte Procession  
Drawing at St. Andrew's for the Dinner to Benefit Our Little Roses
- January 11** 7 p.m. St. Andrew's Vestry meeting
- January 15** Annual Parish Meeting at St. Andrew's
- January 19** 7 p.m. Book Club at Stacy Lampman's: *Snow Day* by Billy Coffey
- January 23** 7 p.m. Covenant Team Meeting at St. Andrew's
- January 25** 7 p.m. Deanery Council Meeting at St. Stephen's-Niagara Falls
- January 30-February 8** **Deacon Rocky, Diane Dworak, & Lois Carter are in Honduras**
- February 5** **Scout Sunday**
- February 17** First Fish Fry
- February 22** Ash Wednesday

## Advent Program:

*"This is the season of Advent, the time we get ready to celebrate the mystery of Christmas;  
the time we are ALL on the way to Bethlehem."*

*"But, who will show us the way?"*

Come join us in our journey to Bethlehem as the children and youth of St. Andrew's and St. John's present an Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols with the Christmas story characters who show us the way to Jesus. St. Andrew's will host the pageant on Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> at 10:30. Invite your family and friends!

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### Newfane Community Food Pantry

PO Box 87 ♦ 3455 Ewings Road ♦ Newfane, NY 14108

#### Save the Dates

Gift Sharing: Friday December 16th

Food Sharing: Wednesday December 21st

**Deadline:** For all gifts, hat, mittens, children's socks/underware,  
decorations and gently used winter clothing  
—Wednesday December 14th, 10—12noon.

**Deadline:** for all food, potatoes etc.  
—Sunday December 18th.

**Help Needed:** Sunday December 18th, 6-9pm

Monday December 19th—10-12noon; 1-3pm

Tuesday December 20th 10-1pm



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## Top twenty reasons churches are most likely to grow\*

**Eighteen of these twenty items are actionable!**

1. Newer Congregations
2. Churches with lots of newcomers
3. Churches with a higher percent of female members
4. Churches that have a clear mission and purpose
5. Churches that are spiritually alive and vital
6. Churches that are willing to change and meet new challenges
7. Churches that offer multiple services during the weekend
8. Churches that make a "joyful noise"
9. Congregations that do less kneeling
10. Churches that invite the active participation of children
11. Churches with different types of worship opportunities
12. Congregations that want more members
13. Churches that use new technologies and networks to communicate and evangelize
14. Churches that offer "special events" several times or more each year
15. Churches that have a strong emphasis on adult formation
16. Churches that put a strong emphasis on young adult activities
17. Churches that put a strong emphasis on personal prayer and devotion
18. Parents that put a strong emphasis on talking about their faith to children
19. Churches where the priest spends a greater amount of time on evangelism
20. Churches where the priest spends a greater amount of time in the community

\* Source: *Why are Episcopal Churches Declining or Growing: An Updated 2010 Facts Survey*

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



- November 27**            First Sunday of Advent  
Advent Calendar available
- December 2**        7 p.m.        Christmas Party at Prudy & Larry Waters'  
Kevin Clark at the piano
- December 3**    9 a.m.-3p.m.    *Handmade for the Holidays*: Holiday Crafts Bazaar &  
Basket Raffle at St. John's  
Local crafters benefit *Home Away From Home Feline  
Shelter*
- 2-4 p.m.        Christmas Pageant Practice at St. Andrew's
- December 4**            Second Sunday of Advent  
Annual Parish Meeting at St. John's
- December 11**        Third Sunday of Advent  
9 a.m.        Holy Eucharist at St. John's – without music  
10:30 a.m.    Advent Service of Lessons and Carols with Christmas  
Pageant at St. Andrew's
- December 18**        Fourth Sunday of Advent  
Hanging of the Chrismets at St. John's  
Greening of the Church at St. John's with Cookie Exchange  
Greening of the Church at St. Andrew's with potluck brunch
- December 24**        Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord  
5:40 p.m.     Carols at St. Andrew's  
6:00 p.m.     Holy Eucharist at St. Andrew's  
10:40 p.m.    Carols at St. John's  
11:00 p.m.    Holy Eucharist at St. John's
- December 25**        Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord  
10 a.m.        Holy Eucharist for the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord  
at St. John's
- January 1**            The Feast of the Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ
- January 8**            Epiphany Sunday: Service at St. Andrew's begins at 10:45 a.m.  
Drawing at St. Andrew's for the Dinner to Benefit Our Little Roses

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC CD AVAILABLE



Did you know that you could purchase a CD of Christmas music with great performances by local artists for *only \$10.00*? More importantly, did you know that for just \$10.00 you could provide three families in need with a food basket with enough food for 27 meals? Well, now you can do both at the same time by purchasing Community Mission's latest annual Christmas CD, *Joy 2011!*

Community Missions will be releasing its *Joy 2011* CD on November 24<sup>th</sup>. *Joy 2011* includes songs from performers from throughout Niagara County. The Mission produces the CD each year to raise awareness and funds to help support their Crisis Housing, Community Kitchen, Food Pantry, Mental Health and Youth Services. Community Mission provides services to families and individuals from throughout Niagara County.

This year we have a special connection to this CD. The Combined St. Andrew's and St. John's Episcopal Choir contributed to this year's CD with performances of "When Will the Little King Come" and "My Heart, Your Bethlehem." These are two wonderful anthems that the choir performed during last Christmas, and in October of this year the choir recorded these songs specifically for Community Missions.

Along with the contributions by the Combined Choir, the CD also includes: "Go Tell it on the Mountain" - Anointed Voices of Praise; "A' Soalin'" & "I Saw Three Ships" - Endymion; "Angels We Have Heard on High", "Silent Night", & "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" - Revelation; "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" & Huron Carol - Eagle Psalms; "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" - Dana Misenheimer; "Away In a Manger" & "On This Day Earth Shall Ring" - Pamela & Rachel Birke; "The First Nowell" - Kenneth D. Walker; and "O Holy Night" - Kary Dobbs.

*Joy 2011* will be available for sale at St. John's and St. Andrew's beginning Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. The CD's are \$10.00 each. The CD will also be available for sale at the Fashion Outlets Mall in Niagara Falls, on December 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>. The CD can also be ordered online and is available for download through the Missions' website ([www.communitymissions.org](http://www.communitymissions.org)). *Joy 2011*, as well as the several CDs that Community Missions has produced in the past, *make wonderful inexpensive Christmas gifts*. They are filled with great, heartfelt performances by local musicians and choirs that we know you will enjoy. But best of all, when you give them as gifts, you are truly doing the work of Christ by helping the poor, marginalized and oppressed. For more information visit Community Missions on line at [www.communitymissions.org](http://www.communitymissions.org) or you can contact the Mission at 716-285-3403, ext 2259.

We encourage the St. Andrew's and St. John's communities show their appreciation for the contribution the Combined Choir made to *Joy 2011* to support the work of Community Missions.

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### God Hears the Music

by Doug Wintersteen

I wonder how many notes,  
How many songs are still in me  
I wonder how many tunes  
I got left to sing  
But the sun comes out somewhere every morning  
Even if it's cloudy in my world,  
*And there's a warm rain on someone's face  
There's a love song in someone's place  
God hears the music in our hearts*

So play that piano  
And strum your guitar  
Find the groove in your soul,  
'Cause that's who you are  
Find the rhythm in your heart,  
Let your horn touch that rain,  
'Cause God gave us music,

You know we'll play it again  
God hears the music in our hearts  
But I still got that feeling  
When a song leaves my lips  
I can feel His spirit,  
Running through my fingertips

*And there's a warm rain on someone's face  
There's a love song in someone's place  
God hears the music in our hearts  
God hears the music in our hearts*

# Children's Pages

The Children's Pages are devoted to learning the Ten Commandments. It includes a devotional that can be read together as a family and then a fun page. Here is this month's edition. Enjoy the time you spend together.



## Devotional

ANOTHER THREE-WORD commandment: "Do not steal."

The simplicity of this law catches our breath. It catches us up by the lapels as God the Father looks us in the eye and in the heart. And it can catch us red-handed in dozens of ways every day.

Our heavenly Father knows us through and through. He realizes how easy it is to make exceptions and to have "one thing lead to another." Just as with the other three-word commandment (the Seventh Commandment, "Do not murder"), the seeds of the tiny offenses can easily grow into the big crimes we recognize as stealing.

When we don't appreciate what God has given to each of us and don't respect that he has given to others in different ways, the sin of stealing is just looking for an opportunity.

Jacob stole his brother Esau's blessing (Genesis 27).

Joseph's brothers stole his life from him (Genesis 37).

Delilah stole the secret of Samson's strength (Judges 16).

David stole another man's wife (2 Samuel 11—12).

Absalom stole the hearts of the people of Israel (2 Samuel 15).

Robbers stole from the man later helped by the Good Samaritan (Luke 10).

May we be a family who is thankful and content with all that we have. May we be a family who respects others and their belongings—from the tiniest idea to the most expensive possession. May we obey the Eighth Commandment out of love for the One who has provided us with everything we really need.



## Word Search

**Eighth Commandment: "Do not steal."**  
(Exodus 20:15)

USING THE word bank, find the words in the puzzle below.

### WORD BANK

*What You Shouldn't Do or Be*

HIDE • ROBBER • SHOPLIFT • SNEAK • TAKE • THIEF

*What You Should Do or Be*

GIVE • HONESTY • LEAVE • PAY • SHARE • WALK AWAY

H	G	M	S	H	O	P	L	I	F	T	A	S	J	D	M	F
T	F	A	T	L	M	H	S	E	G	H	E	M	H	E	K	S
L	U	D	H	D	M	F	G	I	S	I	D	E	Y	A	F	R
E	R	M	E	I	H	M	F	T	G	E	M	A	F	Y	R	I
A	T	J	A	H	D	K	D	A	M	F	E	R	E	A	P	E
V	P	S	T	S	N	E	A	K	L	A	H	S	G	B	L	P
E	L	E	G	F	K	A	L	E	Y	D	M	P	I	D	A	K
E	K	M	P	S	M	J	A	W	M	J	E	M	V	N	H	R
Y	S	A	H	J	F	S	D	R	E	H	O	N	E	S	T	Y
W	Y	N	A	M	T	L	K	R	A	R	J	A	N	H	B	K
L	D	C	Y	J	W	A	L	K	A	W	A	Y	I	M	S	C
H	F	R	E	B	B	O	R	I	J	A	N	J	A	L	E	M
A	Z	X	C	C	B	J	F	R	K	T	M	D	R	D	A	B

# Youth Overnight Event

Food!

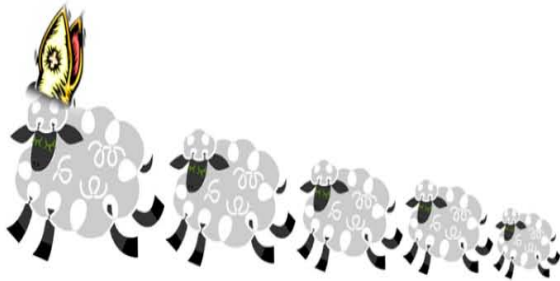
Friends!

Fun!

With Bishop Bill!

Friday, January 20—Saturday, January 21, 2012  
Diocesan Ministry Center (1064 Brighton Rd., Ton.)

Games!



#### The Details:

- Arrive at 7 p.m. on Friday
- Event ends at Noon on Saturday
- Open to all youth in grades 6-12
- Cost is \$10
- Email [BishopEvent@gmail.com](mailto:BishopEvent@gmail.com) to register