



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

Your Vicar's View †

Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening. [2 Samuel 3:10]

Listening has been a theme of our reflections together as we look toward the coming year and as we prepare for Lent. In his Annual Report, outgoing Warden Doug Wintersteen reminds us to *step back and pay attention to those of us in our Church family who may be dealing with struggles in life and be good listeners and lend a hand of support when needed.* Warden Marty Gregg's reminder of Christ's commandment is a reminder to be caring listeners: *"I give a new commandment to you: 'Love one another; just as I have loved you, you should also love one another.'* [John 13:34] In her reflection on Stewardship, Lynn Schauer-Bewley encourages us to listen to God's quiet calling, never too busy to say, "Here I am, send me!" In his sermon on January 22nd, Deacon Rocky challenged us to be faithful in praying the Collect for the Third Sunday after the Epiphany, listening for Christ's call through the clatter and clanging of our distractions and the deafening silence of our hardships: *Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation.*

What if St. Andrew's were known as the congregation of people who *listen*?

- ✚ Who listen to the quiet whisper of God's assurance and admonition.
- ✚ Who listen to each other's hopes, memories, unfinished plans and outrageous dreams
- ✚ Who listen to each other's unspoken fears, regrets, tears and laughter.
- ✚ Who listen to each other pray, sing, laugh, cry, think, struggle, and prevail.

- ✚ Who listen to our community's needs and place them before our pre-conceived plans.
- ✚ Who listen to those who have no voice in the public sector:
 - Those who are in prison or just released from prison
 - Those who have lost their memory, their sense of self, their capacity to respond
 - Those who are starving – in our cities and in villages throughout the world
 - Those whose ideas call us to new understanding
- ✚ Who listen to those who disdain us
- ✚ Who listen to the anguish beneath voices that are too loud and language that is abrasive.
- ✚ Who listen to the sounds of our natural world for the presence of God-in the silence of the snow, the wail of the wind, the rustle of trees as deer and foxes dart through our woods.

As we develop our Vision for 2012, let us commit ourselves to the energy, discipline, and trust that it takes to be good listeners. Let us listen with our eyes, our touch, our posture, as well as our ears. With "listening hearts" we will live out the prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi:

Lord, make us instruments of your peace . . . Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. . . .

Judith

Delivering Smiles

Deacon's View

I cannot believe that February newsletter time is upon us already. The last two months have been a flurry of activity. The Christmas party at Collins Correctional was a very joyful evening. We gathered for hymns and readings, and ended with some fabulous refreshments. There were smiles, handshakes and hugs as we wished each other a most blessed celebration of the birth of our Savior.

I also want to tell you about another face that I saw smiling in the light of the new born Christ child. I had the privilege of delivering the food, gifts and cards that were purchased for the family we adopted. The mother was overwhelmed with the gifts and the tree to put them under. She extends

her gratitude to everyone and said *God bless you all*, on behalf of her and her children.

As you receive this newsletter, Diane and I will be heading to Our Little Roses to visit with our two girls along with the rest of the girls. We will also work on any projects that need to be completed while we are there. We plan on having fun with the girls and will shed a lot of tears when it is time to return home.

May the love of Christ show forth to others in our service to Him.

Blessings,
- Deacon Rocky

Annual Reports

We are including excerpts from the Annual Reports that were presented at our Annual Parish Meeting on January 15. These reports give a sense of what was most important in our life together in 2011 and what we hope for in the coming year.

The Vicar's Report

The Very Rev. Judith Lee

Where we are now: December 2011

I had four goals for 2011:

- To work with both St. Andrew's & St. John's to deepen and renew our worship, education, and spiritual formation together.
 - Attendance at our shared services increased
 - Our Christmas Shoebox Ministry and our shared Cookbook were very successful
 - Both congregations generously supported each other's ministries
 - Youth and adults in both congregations prepared together to be confirmed and received into the Episcopal Church.
 - Women from both congregations took part in a Lenten Study Group
 - We together created and shared Lenten Meditations and an Advent Calendar
 - Our Combined Choir sang for a CD to benefit Community Missions and participated together in our Ecumenical Choral Festival
- To continue improving communication among the ministry groups at St. Andrew's
 - We became more consistent in keeping the Office Manager and me informed of what different groups are doing.
 - We continued to improve our coordination of different ministries
 - A wider range of people participated in our parish ministries—Fish Fry, the Bishop's Visitation, the St. Andrew's Bazaar, the Ecumenical Choral Festival.
- To strengthen our ties to the communities of Newfane & Olcott
 - We donated school supplies to the Newfane Schools
 - I consulted extensively with the principal of Newfane Elementary School about community needs
- To be attentive to my own need for study and spiritual formation
 - I completed a two-year program for certification to be a spiritual director

Deanery & Diocesan, and Ecumenical Service:

In the **Deanery** I have continued to serve as Dean of Niagara. I also participate regularly in deanery and diocesan clergy meetings, and I represent St. Andrew's at special events in the deanery and the diocese.

In the **Diocese** I serve as Chair of the Commission on Ministry, as a member of the Board of Examining Chaplains, and on the Education Task Force. With two other priests, I teach a seminary-level course called "Diocesan Priestly Formation" for

those who are preparing for ordination to the priesthood without attending an Episcopal seminary, and I am a mentor to those beginning discernment for ordained ministry and to newly ordained priests.

My **ecumenical service** has involved participating in the Newfane ecumenical service for Good Friday and leading the Ecumenical Choral Festival in November. I have also continued to serve on the Interfaith Partnership Against Family Violence which meets monthly in Buffalo. I am also part of a clergy consultation group with Niagara Hospice

Continuing Education –I completed a 2-year program for certification in spiritual direction through the WINGS Program in Spiritual Direction in Rochester.

Goals for 2012

The primary focus of my ministry at St. Andrew’s during the coming year will be education, discernment of gifts for ministry, and leadership development. It is truly extraordinary to see the generosity with which new members have come forward to serve St. Andrew’s, and the confidence with which others have begun new ministries. Five adults were received into the Episcopal Church in 2011, we are scheduled for a Bishop’s Visitation in 2012 (date TBA), and General Convention (which meets every 3 years) will meet in July, 2012. This is the time, I think, to develop our understanding of our tradition and our knowledge of the history and polity of The Episcopal Church. As we continue to grow, it is important that all of us reflect together on our gifts and how we can make St. Andrew’s a place where people’s gifts can flourish.

I will continue to be mindful of my own need for learning, spiritual renewal, and physical fitness. I am grateful to your Vestry for their generous support of my professional development, and to the Diocese for supporting my participating in a national conference (called CREDO) June 18-25, 2012.

I continue to be deeply grateful for the opportunity to serve at St. Andrew’s. We continue to grow and to discover new possibilities for serving God in this place. May the Spirit of Love and Peace fill the hearts of all who seek to experience God with us.

+++++

Deacon’s Report:

The Rev. Deacon Rocky Dworak

Where we are now: December 2011

Having just completed my first full year as a member of the family at St. Andrew’s I look back at a year full of challenges and rewards. I am very blessed with the love, prayers and support that have been extended to me from St. Andrew’s. In this year we have learned more about each other and are more comfortable with each other. The SCRIP and Tops card program has earned \$990.00 for St. Andrew’s this year. I assisted with two funeral services and continue to conduct the monthly service at the Newfane Rehabilitation Center. I traveled to Our Little Roses School for Girls in Honduras last February and will return at the end of January this year. We extended our outreach with the Giving Tree and helped a family celebrate a Christmas that they would not have had. I thank you all for your loving support for this family.

Diocesan Service:

I served as the Bishop’s Chaplain twice in 2011. As a Deacon I report to, and serve at the pleasure of the Bishop. All Deacons are assigned as the Bishop’s Chaplain for official visits during the year. I also served as a supply clergy for one Sunday. I continue my weekly chaplaincy at the Family Justice Center and my prison ministry on Friday evenings along with the spring and fall weekend retreats at Collins Correctional facility. I continue as an Examining Chaplain for candidates for the Vocational Diaconate and as the Diocesan Coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development.

Where we want to be: December 2012

To have more members of St. Andrew’s involved with more outreach projects so that we can all preach the Gospel and if necessary use words.

+++++

Warden’s Report:

Doug Wintersteen

Where we are now: December 2011

We are blessed to be part of a vibrant Church with an active congregation of all ages.

- We have expanded our outreach opportunities and we have completed a talent survey to better identify needs and the talents to satisfy them.
- We are blessed to have so many children and young people active in all aspects of our worship experiences at St. Andrews. They are the future of our Church.

- Financially, we have reduced our deficit by at least \$5000 every year for the past five years, while supporting a full slate of programs. We have finished the past two years operating “in the black.” This has been accomplished by our financial stewardship, utilizing and expanding multiple revenue streams and smart investing by the Vestry with the resources we do have.
- Our Pastoral Care for our Church and community continues to be strong with the efforts of Pastor Judith, Deacon Rocky, and volunteers within our parish.
- We continue to build our Worship experiences at St. Andrew’s with the cooperative efforts of our Sunday School, musical groups, worship leaders, the support by our Altar Guild, the active participation of our youth, and the current and proposed renovations to our sanctuary. We hosted a successful Ecumenical Choir Festival with increased participation from Niagara County churches.
- We have established more opportunities for communication with multimedia tools to help us. We publish our newsletter, provide information on our website, expanded our e-mail distribution, and are using social media networks.

Where we want to be: December 2012

We need to continue to build on our strengths that define us: our friendships, our music, our youth, our sense of community, and our financial integrity. We pride ourselves on our closeness and “small town” friendliness that has contributed to our spiritual well-being and our success as a Church.

We need to step back and pay attention to those of us in our Church family who may be dealing with struggles in life and be good listeners and lend a hand of support when needed.

We did not meet our Green Team goals in 2011. I’ll take the responsibility for that; I simply ran out of time to put a good effort in the leadership of this activity. I urge our new leadership team to champion this effort to get back on track; being green is not only environmentally responsible, it has the potential for significant cost savings.

What we will need to make this happen:

The success of St. Andrew’s depends on all of us being active in the leadership and day-to-day activities that keep us going. Last year at this time I joked that we finally elected a Vestry member that wasn’t eligible for AARP! This year we are doing even better, with the leadership activities of St. Andrew’s being shared by young and young at heart alike. We need to continue this trend to get more people involved with a more diverse cross section of pro-active Church members. We need to pray like it’s all up to God, and work like it’s all up to us. Our Church community as we now know it depends on that.

Finally, I extend a big “Thank You”! to all of my St. Andrews family for supporting me during the last 5 years as a Vestry member and as Warden. We have grown as a Church together, and my faith has grown as I became more involved in my Church. We are successful when a lot of Churches are struggling to stay alive. We are blessed to have a Visionary as a Priest, and a lot of people with a wide range of talents willing to work together to make the St. Andrew’s voyage in faith as smooth a ride as it can be.

+++++

Warden’s Report:

Martin Gregg

Where we are now: December 2011

2011 was a crossroads year for St. Andrew’s. We find ourselves transitioning from the traditional, congregational church we have been for years into the program church we always knew we should be. Our numbers are trending up and that is cause for joy. The upward trend has allowed us to move forward on new initiatives, broaden our ministry opportunities and engage everyone at some level.

As with any growth and transition, there are inevitably pains: How do I fit in? Where is the church I used to go to? Where are we heading with all of this?

Where we want to be: December 2012

At our best, we strive to be an interconnected community of faith, supporting one another in our journeys. Through prayer and discernment, and with sufficient effort, we can make St. Andrew’s a home for all of us and for anyone searching for a connection.

What we will need to get there:

“I give a new commandment to you: 'Love one another; just as I have loved you, you should also love one another.' [John 13:34]

Sounds easy, doesn’t it?

+++++

Mission/Ministry Group: Buildings and Grounds

Larry Waters

The Building & Grounds Team, consisting of William Buchanan, Gary Cheasty, Michael Depew, Joe Donaldson, Gerald Harrington, Paul Mayer, and myself, has met regularly and helped in completing many tasks or projects during 2011. I wish to thank each and everyone for their efforts to make Saint Andrew’s Church an attractive, well-maintained and safe place to worship. I’d also like to recognize the contributions of the Niagara County Work Program (NCWP) participants under the direction of Joseph Jastrzemski, Coordinator (Niagara County Sheriff Department), for assisting in the many painting projects accomplished.

Below is a listing of various tasks or projects completed:

- Painting of Sanctuary, Choir Loft, Sacristy, Lower Hallways & Bathrooms, Narthex and East Entry.
- Cleaning of paneling in altar area.
- Outside Spring cleanup with assistance from NCWP workers.
- Sanded folding door in chapel space.
- Installed stainless steel sheeting behind kitchen stove.
- Replaced light fixture in kitchen, and ballast in undercroft.
- Repairs or replacement to gutters on main entrance and north chapel wall (Starkweather Construction Inc.) due to storm damage.
- Removed diseased and wind-damaged trees in front of church (Cutting Edge Inc.).
- Installed new dehumidifiers in nursery & Sunday school classroom.
- Purchased & assembled new TV stand for Sunday school classroom.
- Updated attic storage area adjacent to choir loft with increased lighting and additional space.
- Removed church pews to create dedicated space for wheel chair convenience.

In addition, many smaller but important behind the scene tasks were completed that have helped to maintain Saint Andrew’s facilities in an above average condition, on both the interior and exterior of our buildings as well as the surrounding grounds and prayer garden.

Thanks go out to the congregation for your input and support concerning the work involved. We look forward to your involvement in setting and accomplishing goals that will enhance our worship areas in the future.

+++++

Mission/Ministry Group: Choir and Music Program

Joe Breczka, Jr., Music Director

Where we are now: December 2011

Over the past year, our Music Program has continued to grow and flourish. Through the efforts of all involved, we have our Adult Choir, Gospel Groove Band, Brass Ensemble and some additional groups that are being considered to enhance our existing program. In addition to our weekly offerings, we have participated in many outside activities (some of which we hosted). By keeping focused on the Cross, our program is considered one of the best in our area.

Where we want to be: December 2012

Over the next year our desire is to enhance our programs by creating additional groups and to provide opportunities for various aspects of our music program. Our hope is to grow in our individual faith and continue to enhance our worship services. We will continue to open our doors to anyone wanting to participate and provide a Christian environment for all participating.

What we will need to get there:

The continued desire to worship and praise our Lord, Jesus Christ. All else will fall into place provided we continually remember why we are here.

+++++

Mission/Ministry Group: Financial Management

Mike Depew , Treasurer

Where we are now: December 2011

Our net worth as of 12/31/11 was \$288,039.33. Our 2011 budget was a deficit budget calling for a -\$14,192 and we finished with no deficit at all. One of our 2011 goals was to operate closer to our budget amount and reduce our deficit by ½. As you can see, our vestry cut the budget deficit by more than \$14,000. Our 2011 pledges finished at 13 paid up to date, 18 paid ahead, & 19 behind.

Where we want to be: December 2012

Our goal for 2012 is to continue outreach and to operate closer to our budget expectations. We have made the 2012 budget as realistic as possible and will strive to work as efficiently as possible throughout the year.

What we will need to get there:

We will need prayer to guide all of us to give from the heart, then honor what we pledge, and lastly, to continue to work together as a community of faith.

+++++

Mission/Ministry Group: Parish Nurse

Judi Naylor

Where we are now: December 2011

As the Parish Nurse at St. Andrew's I have been blessed to support the congregation as a nurse and spiritual friend. The following are ways in which I have been able to serve:

- ✓ Made home visits for medical evaluation and spiritual and emotional support.
- ✓ Did blood pressure screening and made recommendations as to when to consult a physician
- ✓ Made hospital visits
- ✓ Set up home visitation schedules
- ✓ Wrote occasional medical items of interest in the newsletter
- ✓ Educated parishioner's physicians on parish nurse responsibilities
- ✓ Developed modest budget for parish nurse program
- ✓ Became a liaison with the Health Association of Niagara County, Inc. (HANCI), as a representative for the senior companion service

Where we want to be: December 2012:

I would like continue to develop educational programs for the community and youth of our parish through newsletter articles and a Health Bulletin Board. I would like to organize 2 community health programs: a flu clinic and an information program on organ donation for interested individuals. With Pastor Judith, I will also form a Health Ministry Team that will meet quarterly and will integrate the spiritual and physical needs of our parishioners.

What we will need to get there:

Continued support and active involvement from vestry, clergy and parish in order to keep information flowing.

+++++

Mission/Ministry Group: Acolytes

Susan Villeneuve, Acolyte Master

Where we are now: December 2011

The Acolytes as a group are 14 strong ranging in age from 7-16 and we have 6 adults who have helped out throughout the past 2 summers to give the children and teens a break. This is wonderful and has been much appreciated.

Where we want to be: December 2012

We want to be talking about having taken another trip to Washington D.C. for the National Acolyte Festival in October. And of course we would like to increase our numbers. Right now we all serve once a month and sometimes more depending on the sports / activity with the group and sickness during the winter months. We would like to see more 7-year-olds and up, join our ranks as an acolyte.

What we will need to get there:

We will need the support of the church community and the whole community to get the funds needed to make this trip in October a reality, as well as the participation of all acolytes and their families whether or not they plan to attend.

+++++

Mission/Ministry Group: Altar Guild

Sue Villeneuve, Altar Guild Director

Where we are now: December 2011

We have 5½ teams of women and some men who help out. This enables each team to be in charge of the altar setting and take down 2 months a year. This is a service to our parish and to our priest. It is a quiet almost unnoticed service. This service takes only about a half hour on a Friday or Saturday and a half hour on Sunday after the service. The time and day of set up varies per team. Due to life changing all the time, our numbers have decreased over the last few years.

Where we want to be: December 2012

We would really like to have 12 teams so that each team would only serve 1 month a year. That has been the wish of the Altar Guild for a matter of years.

What we will need to get there:

We would need at least 12 more people to be teamed up with someone who has been on Altar Guild and knows the ropes.
+++++

Mission/Ministry Group: Ladies Guild

Darcy Buchanan

Where we are now: December 2011

We just had another very successful bazaar. We had a \$4,204 profit, and \$3,450 has been given back to the community and our Church. Donations went to the Food Pantry, YWCA, Shoe Boxes, Judith’s Discretionary Fund and a pledge to the church for 2012. We are available to help with special lunches and some decorating, and this year we also paid for having the kitchen oven professionally cleaned.

Where we want to be: December 2012

In the spring we would like to have a major kitchen cleanup after Fish Fry. It needs to be a group effort, cleaning cupboards, etc

What we will need to get there:

The same special group, who work together and are always there when needed. Thanks to everyone.
+++++

Mission/Ministry Group: Sunday School

Sunday School Teachers

Where we are now: December 2011

We have 3 full classes, with an enrollment of 30 active students, the youngest class being the largest. We have children from age 3 to age 17. The kids are excited about coming to class. This year Sarah Harrington took over the responsibility for the Pageant and with the two churches did a magnificent job.

Where we want to be: December 2012

Growing enrollment, activities, community service for all the classes and keeping nursery staffed every Sunday.

What we will need to get there:

Parental involvement with ideas and help in organizing events and participation by the families.
+++++

Mission/Ministry Group: Youth Group

Laurie and Josh Gregory

Where we are now: December 2011

We just got everything rolling in October 2011 and had our first activity, a lock-in. The youth who attended had a great time sharing in fun activities and fellowship.

Where we want to be: December 2012

We need to develop a clear mission and purpose for the group. We would like to have a monthly meeting schedule in place, in addition to planning at least one fun activity per month. We also want to research ways to incorporate some activities to help the youth learn more about their faith and development as Christians.

What we will need to get there:

At this point, we will not need much more than time, information about youth ministry programs, and support from the parents of youth participating and other members of the church. Sometimes we do have minimal expenses for food and those kinds of items, but we are unsure how we should handle that, especially since we haven’t planned all of our activities yet. We don’t want money to be a big focus for this group. If we have to do a little bit of fundraising to cover those costs, that is fine, but we would rather be more focused on providing a place for St. Andrew’s youth to develop friendships. We will try to do that in a way that is not costly to anyone involved. If the church wanted to allocate a small amount of funds toward the group, we would gratefully accept, but we do not need much.
+++++

Mission/Ministry Group: Adult Education

Where we are now: December 2011

Our 2011 goals were to develop a culture that encourages contributions and honors diversity by increasing the range and variety of programs for Adult Formation

Newsletter - The Parish Nurse contributed regularly to the newsletter

The "View from our Youth" is now a recurring feature in the newsletter

Opportunities for Adult Spiritual Formation

5 adults prepared to be Received into the Episcopal Church at the Bishop's Visitation in February

"Reflection on the Go" became a periodic part of the Sunday bulletin

8- 10 women participated in the Women's Book Group

Where we want to be: December 2012

We want a viable and relevant adult education program that encourages educational opportunities to flourish in a variety of formats and with a variety of topics so that everyone can participate at some level in 2-3 opportunities for personal spiritual growth and additional knowledge of our faith tradition.

What we will need to get there:

The adult education ministry is about finding relevant and interesting ways to continue our journey intentionally in faith together. Each of us needs to free up some personal time several times a year and commit ourselves to one another with willing hearts and minds to participate in adult education.

+++++

Mission/Ministry Group: St. Andrew's Community Store

Cindy Harrington and Stacy Lampman

Where we are now: December 2011

St. Andrew's Community Store relies on the hard work and dedication of its volunteer teams to serve the Newfane Community. We presently have 25 regular volunteers and 5 substitutes who work scheduled hours Tuesday through Saturday each week. These volunteers extend cheerful hospitality, words of support, and help to customers each week. We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all who have volunteered their time, treasure and talent to the mission of the store this year. We have contributed \$13,000 to St. Andrew's for this fiscal year. In addition, we have given a \$50 memorial in memory of Judy Bowers, bought a Fish Fry placemat ad, given \$250 to Operation Christmas Child, and paid \$195 for an ad in the Newfane Town tourism 2012 book for the church.


The store has donated over 234 bags of clothing and linens, 3 boxes of Christmas decorations, 8 bags of household décor, and 12 boxes of books to the Salvation Army, Goodwill and clothing boxes at other churches. In addition we have donated books and stuffed animals to Niagara Deanery outreach project, fabric for quilt making to the Lutheran Women (they make about 80 quilts a year for the sick), material to the Eastern Niagara Hospital Guild, tree ornaments and lights for our Christmas Adopt-a-Family project, and items to St. John's for their rummage sales.

Where we want to be: December 2012

March 12, 2012 will mark our 53rd year of service to the community. By December we would like to increase our sales so we can increase our giving. We would like to increase our volunteer base so that when our snow birds have gone south we won't be stretched so thinly. We would like to find two teams to split one more Saturday each month. We have an immediate need for a volunteer Thursday afternoons and one person to join the Tuesday team for January through March, 1 – 4 pm. We would like to develop a small group of extra volunteers that could come in to do sorting, cleaning, and help with seasonal change over.

What we will need to get there:

We need you and a friend--for an hour, a day or as a regular volunteer. New volunteers can be trained during the day or evening. Donations of clothing, books, movies, CD's, linens, toys, jewelry and small household items that are in good or better condition are always welcome. All proceeds from the store support the ministry of St. Andrew's in our community and beyond.



Book Club
Snow Day
by Billy Coffey
Thursday, February 9th at 7 p.m.
at Stacy's House



Money Matters

In the past newsletter you read that we would soon have a more convenient method of making donations to St. Andrew's. It is here. We have added a PayPal link to our website. This is a convenient method to pay a pledge electronically. You will be able to use it as often, or as little as you like. It is a great way to keep up to date when you are away and not able to get to church.

- Mike Depew

2012 Approved Budget

Total Budgeted Income:	\$134,300.00
Total Budgeted Expenses:	\$147,491.46
Difference in Income & Expenses:	- \$13,191.46

Stewardship Reflection

Here am I, send me! [Isaiah 6:8]

Have you ever wished for more hours in the day? Too often we stretch ourselves to the very limit until we are left feeling weary and worn out. "Take on something else? Are you kidding me?? I don't have time!" Unfortunately it tends to be the healthy activities that we "run out of time" for: exercise, prayer, relaxation, play, church.

Isaiah's willingness to answer God's dramatic call should serve as an inspiration for all of us to prioritize our time and energy. In tithing our money we need to give from the top, and with our time we must do the same. St. Andrew's is a perfect conduit for serving Jesus so ask Him where he needs you most, and then jump in exclaiming "Here I am, send me!"

Lynn Schauer-Bewley

A Sincere Thank You

From the Family Supported by the Giving Tree this Christmas

A letter of sincere thanks to all the kind people who helped us have a Merry Christmas.

My children were overjoyed to have had such a great Christmas morning! The last year has been an often challenging, and tumultuous one for us, sometimes leaving us not quite knowing how we'd make it from one day to the next. There have been many, often difficult changes for us within the past year.

Come November, Christmas was far from my mind while struggling to keep up with just day to day necessities.

But God is good, and has shown me that there still is a reason to be faithful in the kindness of the human heart. Through all your giving, we have been blessed, not only with a beautiful Christmas, but even more importantly, the warmth of knowing that the graciousness of the Creator is alive and well, and that it is my own heart that just has to be open enough to receive it.

We have been blessed!

With much love & best wishes for all in the New Year,

Chrissy, Autumn, & Cayce

A View From the Youth

Most people only have one or two people to whom they can tell everything. For me this is different. I have a Church family, and I know I can come to them for anything. I'm closest with the people in my Sunday School. The reason I love coming to church is because of Sunday School and my awesome friends. I know that if I have had a bad week at school, or one of those rare fights with my parents, I always feel so much better after church. This is because of my friends; I can tell them anything and they won't judge me or call me a dork. I know they are true friends. Having amazing friends really helps my faith grow and that helps me become a better person.

- Melissa Pestinger

Vestry Highlights

January 8, 2012

Resolved

- ✓ Our Vestry Retreat will be held on Sunday, February 19, 1-4 p.m. The Rev. Canon Carolyn Lumbard will be our facilitator.

Discussion

- ✓ Suggestion that Sunday School teachers be introduced to new families, and that some information about the Sunday School lesson of the day be included in the bulletin.
- ✓ Suggestion that we re-organize our coffee mugs to make room for new mugs on the rack in the Undercroft
- ✓ Phone Tree needs to be updated
- ✓ Proposal for a new recorder for services; it will require a laptop computer
- ✓ Preliminary bids for the sanctuary renewal, to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting on January for input from the congregation before the Vestry makes a decision about moving forward
- ✓ Reviewed 2011 Goals. We met most of the goals. Goals that remain a priority for 2012:
 - Environmental Stewardship
 - Ongoing development of Technology Team
 - Development of a Pastoral Care Team
 - Develop a variety of opportunities for Adult Spiritual Formation and encourage participation for everyone
 - Add teams to the Altar Guild, with more diversity

We extend sincere thanks to Doug Wintersteen for his service as Warden, and to Sue Villeneuve and Judi Naylor for their service on Vestry.

Our next Vestry meeting will be on February 8th at 7 p.m.

Schedules for February 2012

Acolytes - 10:00 AM arrival time

- 5th** - Zachary Roeseler, William Beilein, Matthew Vogt,
- 12th** - Melissa Pestinger, Jacob Roeseler, Olivia Mazanka
- 19th** - Jocie Lyon, Jonathan Pestinger, Chad Gilson
- 22nd** - *Ash Wednesday* - Sue Villeneuve
- 26th** - Matthew Roeseler, Jarrett Gilson, Mark Vogt



Lay Readers

- 9th** Dorothy Cheasty & Margaret Moran
- 12th** Stacy Lampman & Lisa Roeseler
- 19th** - Dorothy Cheasty & Diane Dworak
- 22nd** - Matt Pestinger
- 26th** Lynn Schauer-Bewley & Jerry Harrington

Altar Guild

Prudy Waters & Margaret Moran

Collection Counters

Bob Heineman & Larry Waters

FISH FRY 2012



It is that time of year again. Fish Fry at St. Andrew's runs from Friday, February 17, 2012, through March 30, 2012 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. As decided at our annual meeting, the cost to the public will increase this year to \$9.00.

Of course, all the action does not happen in those two hours, so here is the help we are looking for again this year:

- Thursday night – we shred cabbage, set tables, make coffee, and prepare condiments
- Friday morning – we unload supplies from the Montondo's truck, mix coleslaw and potato salad, pre-fry fries
- Friday evening – we need **many, many** desserts; help with clearing and clean up, coffee pourers, dessert cutters and help with take out.

Please consider helping out this year. You can speak to me directly if you have interest and I will definitely hook you up with a weekly job, or a job for whenever will fit your schedule.

I can't stress enough the need for desserts over the 7 weeks of Fish fry. We need over 400 servings per night and your donation is much appreciated. You may consider keeping track of your baking expenses as they can be applied to your yearly donation to the Church.

Fish Fry is our major fundraiser for the year and we all need to be a part of it to make it a success. I look forward to working with you in this very important ministry for St. Andrew's! Please contact me if you have any questions, or if you are a new volunteer who needs a job.

- Stacy Lampman



News and Notes



February 5th – Scout Sunday & Food Pantry Collection (Valentine's Day). Our Scouts will serve as Readers, Ushers, and Greeters this day. This will also be the day for our monthly collection for the Newfane Food Pantry–Valentine's Treats. We will have a special Coffee Hour to honor Matthew Roeseler's accomplishment of completing the requirements to become an Eagle Scout.

Health Ministry Team – Sunday, February 12th –Judi Naylor, our Parish Nurse will lead a new Health Ministry Team to learn and teach us new ways to pray with the sick, and to integrate physical and spiritual health. This team will include our Eucharistic Visitors, people with health care experience, and people who are discerning a gift for prayer and pastoral care. Please see Judi Naylor if you would like to learn.

On **February 19th – The Last Sunday before Lent** – we will begin a new tradition by burning the palms from last year in order to make ashes for Ash Wednesday. Please bring your palms from home for this purpose.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at St. John's on Tuesday February 21st, beginning at 4:30 p.m. A Free Will offering will benefit Episcopal Relief and Development. The Shrove Tuesday tradition developed as a way for people to use up their sugar, flour, and eggs prior to the Lenten Fast that began on Ash Wednesday. Please join in this popular tradition at St. John's.

Ash Wednesday – February 22nd – Marks the beginning of Lent and our solemn commitment to a holy season of reflection, prayer, reading, and renewal. We will have two services of Holy Eucharist: noon at St. Andrew's and 7 p.m. at St. John's.

Saturday, February 18th, 10 a.m.–6 p.m. - Scrapbooking at St. John's – Join with local artists to learn new techniques and share ideas.

Prayer Shawl Ministry – St. Andrew's "angel weavers" create shawls for newborns, the sick, the bereaved, and caregivers. Sometimes a shawl is designated for a particular person, and others are available for family and friends as well as for parishioners. Please see Kathy Massie if you would like to learn more about how to participate in this ministry, and please see Judith+ if you would like to give a shawl to someone.

Thank You's

Thanks for the generosity of everyone who contributed to the Raffle for Dinner at the Van Horne mansion to benefit Our Little Roses, which raised about \$1,500 through the participation of churches throughout the diocese.

Thanks to your Vestry for a hard-working year, and to Natalie Beilein, Lynn Schauer-Bewley, Lisa Roeseler, and Paul Mayer who have offered to serve as Warden and on Vestry for the coming year.

Thanks to everyone who made this Christmas season so joyous and beautiful, and to everyone who made our Annual Parish Meeting a productive beginning to our year.

Dates to Remember



February 5	Scout Sunday & Valentine's Day Food Pantry collection Noon Building & Grounds Meeting
February 8	7 p.m. Vestry Meeting
February 9	7 p.m. Book Club - <i>Snow Day</i> by Bill Coffey
February 12	noon Health Ministry Team meeting at St. Andrew's
February 16	5:30-9 p.m. St. John's Vestry Retreat
February 17	4-6:30 p.m. First Fish Fry
February 18	10 a.m - 6 p.m. Scrapbooking Workshop at St. John's
February 19	Last Sunday before Lent - Burning of the Palms 1-4 p.m. St. Andrew's Vestry Retreat 2 p.m. Service at Newfane Rehabilitation Center
February 21	4:30 p.m. St. John's Shrove Pancake Supper
February 22	Ash Wednesday Noon - Holy Eucharist with Blessing of the Ashes at St. Andrew's 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist with Blessing of the Ashes at St. John's
February 26	First Sunday in Lent

Looking Ahead



March 4	4-6:30 p.m. Deanery Vestry Dinner at Christ Church
March 5, 12, 19, 26	7 p.m. Book Discussion at Lois Carter's – <i>Love Wins</i> , by Rob Bell
March 14	St. Andrew's Vestry Meeting
March 16	St. John's will provide desserts for Fish Fry
March 18	2 p.m. Service at Newfane Rehabilitation Center
April 1	Palm Sunday – Service begins at 10:45 a.m.
April 5	Maundy Thursday 6 p.m. Dinner at St. Andrew's, followed by Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar at 7:30 6 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar at St. John's 7 p.m. – 7 a.m. Overnight Vigil at St. John's
April 6	Good Friday 7 a.m. Service of Holy Communion to end the overnight vigil at St. John's 8 a.m. Ecumenical Service at First Baptist Church of Newfane 7 p.m. Service of Tenebrae at St. Andrew's
April 7	Holy Saturday 10 a.m. Blessing of Easter Foods & Easter Egg Hunt at St. John's
April 8	Easter Day Service begins at 10:45 a.m.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES for February



Birthdays

1st Kaylee Phipps
Braidie Barnes
2nd Ann Schulze
3rd Pam Leibring
4th Flo Phipps
6th Eric Liebring
7th Joe Breczka Jr.

11th Marilyn Olsen
12th Jocie Lyon
13th Faber Gooding
18th Kathy Duhow
20th Lindsay Breczka
21st Sarah Reinhardt
Stephanie Gallo

23rd Austin Knott
27th Matthew Reinhardt
Diane Dworak
29th Chris Banks

Anniversaries



13th Daniel & Barbara Putnam Anger
21st Faber & Tish Gooding

Newfane Community Food Pantry

Collection List

February 5th

Valentine's Day Theme

Candy, Children's Packaged Valentine Cards, Baking Products



Covenant Team Highlights January 23, 2012

Report from St. Andrew's

- Sunday School growth has generated much discussion, and a new teacher has joined the team and made it possible to reorganize our classes.
- At our Annual Parish Meeting on January 15th a new warden and 3 new vestry members were elected. Plans for sanctuary renovation were discussed, including the need to replace the windows and to reserve funds for a new roof in the next 5 years
- We have a renewed focus on outreach to the local community, thanks in large part to the ministry of Deacon Rocky and Diane Dworak

Report from St. John's

- Since the fall, we have been working to improve communication.
- We are experiencing a renewed spirit of purpose and community
 - Development of 6 ministry groups is fostering broader involvement
 - We had a positive and enthusiastic parish town meeting yesterday
 - We have new leadership with new members of Vestry, a new Treasurer, new newsletter editors, and a new Parish Administrator.
 - The Cookbook has been positively received

Discussion

- Scheduled Services for Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday.
- Our Lenten focus will be on Episcopal Relief and Development.
- Lois Carter will lead a Book Discussion Group on Mondays in March (March 4, 5, 12, 19, & 26) at 7 p.m. at her home. The text will be *Love Wins*, by Rob Bell.
- We will work together on fundraising for the National Acolyte Festival in Washington D.C. in October, 2012
- We celebrated with thanksgiving the success of our shared projects and ministries in 2011: The Christmas Shoebox Project, Christmas Pageant, *Recipes & Remembrances*, Joint Choir performance on the Community Missions CD (*Joy 2011*).

Next Meeting: Monday April 23, 2012 7 p.m. at St. Andrew's

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.



"The enemies of the truth are always awfully nice."
—Christopher Morley



Devotional

WHEN A WITNESS who is about to give testimony in court places a hand on a Bible and solemnly swears to "tell the truth, the whole truth," the oath often ends with "so help me, God."

And God will help us, for he is the God of truth. Testifying falsely, telling a lie, fabricating the truth, spinning a tall tale—these are all words to cover up false words.

King David knew how much God valued the truth. He wrote Psalm 51 after the prophet Nathan confronted him about his relationship with Bathsheba. He learned through his tears that God desires "honesty from the heart, so you can teach me to be wise in my inmost being" (Psalm 51:6).

David's son Solomon also learned the hard way about God's commitment to truth. He wrote and collected the book of Proverbs to share these hard lessons. Many of these proverbs, addressed to "my children," are the wisdom of our heavenly Father given to an earthly father (Solomon), and then passed on to parents of today and tomorrow. Look at just a few:

"An honest witness tells the truth; a false witness tells lies" (12:17).

"Truth stands the test of time; lies are soon exposed" (12:19).

"Those who are godly hate lies; the wicked come to shame and disgrace" (13:5).

Is the size of the lie the issue? Is the crucial part whether we are caught? No. There is truth. And there is the absence of truth.

May each of us honor the God of truth. May we pick ourselves up when we stumble and run back to the One who longs to teach us to be wise in our inmost beings.



Don't Hide the Truth

Ninth Commandment: "Do not testify falsely against your neighbor." (Exodus 20:16)

COLOR IN ALL the spaces with dots to answer the question, "Who are we lying to when we tell a lie?"

