



Saint Andrew's Messenger

Since 1849, the Episcopal Church to the Outer Banks

December/January 2011/2012

Parson's Corner



Father Phil +

An Advent Quiz from the Parson

Advent is

- A time to run ourselves ragged buying gifts, then collapse on Christmas Day exhausted and broke, wondering where Christmas went to.
- A time to complain that commercialism is robbing us of our Holy Days making it seem like Christmas joy can be bought.
- A time to prepare for the coming of God's Kingdom. We prepare for judgment before the King only to be greeted by a child in a manger.
- All of the above; which is why the church in its wisdom has given us a season to prepare for Christmas.

Advent is the first day of the Christian year. The liturgical color changes to purple; although many churches use the color blue, traditionally the color of Mary who knew a good bit about waiting in expectation for Jesus. The Church is decorated simply during Advent. Greenery is used behind the altar and the church music become more reflective. This is a lull to help us prepare for the explosion of color and dazzling music as we celebrate Christmas.

Father Phil +



Dates to Remember:

*December 24:

Christmas Paegent: 5pm

Christmas Eve Services:

Candlelight 8:00 pm

Candlelight 11:00 pm

*December 25:

Merry Christmas

Christmas Day Service:

10:30 am

*January 1:

Happy New Year

New Year Service:

10:30 am

*January 6:

Epiphany

Festival of Lights: 6pm

*January 22:

Newcomer's Dinner

Senior Warden Report

This is my last letter to you as the Senior Warden. Though I will readily admit that my responsibilities at this post have been very time-consuming, it has also been a very rewarding and worthwhile effort and experience for me. I have gotten to better know so many of you while serving in the role, and for that I am grateful.

In this Advent season in which we look forward to the coming of Christ, I also think now is an appropriate moment to look forward to opportunities for the next year. We have a wonderful slate of candidates ready to join the Vestry. With Phil's guidance and leadership, we have implemented several new programs to strengthen and build our church, some of which most recently being the Magnetic Church Conference and Consecration Sunday. We have also taken this past year to establish new administrative responsibilities and functions to strengthen and improve the back office performance of our church. All of this provides a strong foundation as we plan and implement our ministries in the coming year. If you have been involved in some of these efforts, thank you for your time and talents. If you have not been involved, please become involved. As I have found, the personal rewards of doing the work of the church far exceed the time and effort put into it.

In closing, I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Peace,
Peebles

Parish Life

My Vestry term is ending. It has been a challenging tenure. I have learned much and grown in my Church and in my Faith. It has been a fun and busy ride. We had Randy and his wife Nancy Green with us as Interim Priest. Randy certainly pushed us "out into the world" but we knew he always had our back. We searched and found and love Father Phil and Barbara.

St. Andrew's is in good hands with the Glicks. Dick Campbell has two more years on the Vestry and he will continue all the projects of Parish Life. The Willing Workers are so important to this Ministry. We have a great Parish Life committee. It has been a joy to work with them. The youth on the committee have brought new ideas and thoughts to Parish Life and are an integral part of our Ministry.

Parish Life will continue with the Sunday coffee hours, the St. Andrew's dinner groups, fishing trips, catered meals, pot lucks, ping pong tournaments and helping with the Christmas Eve Pageant Party. We get to do all the Fun Things!

Thanks to so many for the support I have received over the last three years.

Isabel Cooper, Junior Warden

St. Andrew's PreSchool

Lauren Straub

We are gearing up for a festive, fun month! As always, Christmas is a wonderful time at preschool! We are busy learning Christmas carols – some old, some new as well as reading the great classic Christmas books, as well as some new! The looks on the children's faces is just priceless at Christmas. We will be having our annual Christmas Program in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, December 14th at 11:00 am. We will have a special visitor as well. Peek in for some Christmas cheer!

Thank you to Butch Luke for the sparkling floors we came back to after Thanksgiving. They look great! I would also like to thank those who have so generously contributed to our scholarship fund. This is so important to the families in need.

We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

Membership is Growing!

St. Andrew's welcomes the following people who have transferred their membership to our church family.

- ⊕ **Nikki Taylor** (St. Gabriel's, Philadelphia, PA) is a member of The Daughters of the King.
- ⊕ **Rachel Sumrell** (St. Francis, Greensboro, NC) teaches in Manteo.
- ⊕ **Cathy Kreplin** (St. Timothy's, Wayne, NJ) sings in St. Andrew's choir.
- ⊕ **Nell Meehan** is from an Episcopal church in San Diego, CA.
- ⊕ **William and Lelia Ingram** (Church of the Advent, Williamston, NC) live in Manteo. William was recently promoted to Lieutenant

General and serves as the Director, Army National Guard.

- ⊕ Welcome back to **Win Crawford** who has reactivated his membership at St. Andrew's. Win is an active participant in the Sunday Christian Education class.

Adult Education

Patti Johnson

Presently, the Adult Sunday Forum has finished a book "The Faith Club." It is an interfaith dialogue between three women: a Muslim, a Jew, and a Christian after 9/11. In the first portion of the book, we are introduced to the women and they share their faith experiences. The middle section has them challenging each other and exploring their own faith on a deeper level. In the end, they realize they pray to, and seek comfort from, the same God. Through this, their faith deepens and friendships blossom.

Then, after the parish meeting on December 4th, we start an Advent series. More about this will be posted in the e-news, and the Sunday bulletin. Please join us on Sunday mornings in the adult classroom at 9:30. You will find our discussions open, interesting and informative.

We will keep you posted with updates. Our winter programs starting in January are in the planning stages. We will post those as soon as they are scheduled. Please let us know if there are any talents you have that you would like to share with us. We love new ideas! Contact Patti Johnson @ paj2551@gmail.com.

Annual Business Meeting

Annual Report: St. Andrew's annual meeting was held December 4th in the church. According to all reports, the church is moving in a very positive direction. Church attendance has increased from last year. Consecration Sunday was very successful resulting in eleven new pledges as well as a significant increase in individual pledge amounts.

Vestry election: Vestry nominations attempted to reflect a balance of first time candidates and those with prior vestry experience. Joe Brauch, Pat Fleming, Jay Tutwiler and John Wilding were elected to serve three year terms. Butch Luke and Robert Trivette were elected to serve the unexpired terms of two vestry members who resigned.

Vestry Farewell: Senior Warden Peebles Harrison, Junior Warden Isabel Cooper, Missy Rotchford and Grace Ragaller leave the vestry at the end of December having completed their three year terms. These members helped guide St. Andrew's through its interim ministry, search for a new rector, and Father Phil's first year. In addition, they have established very active parish life and youth ministries. Thank you for your dedication.

**Christmas Day Service
at 10:30 in the church**



Christmas Eve Pageant

Annah Petty

It's that time of the year again and the pageant practices are beginning. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board at the end of the Sunday school hall. Please think about what character or part you would like to play. This will give us an idea of how many costumes we will need. Please specify on the sign-up sheet if you are interested in a specific speaking part or character.

The pageant will be traditional and based on the story of Christ's birth. All participants will sing the songs that help tell the Christmas story (mostly familiar carols) as a part of the pageant. Song sheets will be sent home. St. Andrew's children and friends are invited to be part of the pageant. We will be practicing at 9:30 in the Sunday school classrooms on December 4th and 11th. A full cast rehearsal will be in the main church on December 18th. The pageant will take place December 24th at 5:00 pm.

There will also be a youth choir and/or ensemble available for the middle and high school students. If you are interested in singing or playing an instrument please sign-up. Becki Rea and I will consider anyone who is interested in a special musical part. All children are welcome to participate even if they are unable to make Sunday school.

Please contact Annah Petty at annahpetty@earthlink.net or 252-305-0119 if you have a question or if you are able to help with the pageant this year. We will need volunteers to help in the classrooms with music, the set, props and costumes.

police must be detailed to direct neighborhood traffic.) No joke.

This reminded me that Stan Freeburg, the adman/comedian, once came up with some serious satire about yuletide excesses;

*We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
We wish you a merry Christmas,
And please buy our beer.*

The president of the advertising agency producing that awful jingle was none other than Ebenezer Scrooge, himself.

'Tis bad enough for Halloween décor to appear eight weeks early, but in some stores one even can find Halloween gargoyles side-by-side with Christmas angels...in an unintentional pop-cultural Armageddon.

We all acknowledge that things have gotten out of hand when it comes to Christmas and few folks don't fret some as to how the seasonal celebration has gone wrong. In response to this, a few years back a book appeared addressing the problem, *Unplug the Christmas Machine**. This was one of those books you didn't have to read to get its message, the title says it all.

I'm not proposing what the early colonial protestants decreed, that Christmas celebrations had become so debased that it were best just to do without it all. That's right. They outlawed Christmas. (Don't you just know that Dr. Seuss' Grinch would have turned an even deeper shade of green if that word had only reached him.) But, like the citizens of Who-ville, we need to refocus our attention, and remember that it comes, with or without decorations and gifts:

*It came without ribbons! It came without tags!
It came without packages boxes, or bags!
And he puzzled and puzzled, till his puzzler was sore.*

*Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
"Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store.
Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more."*

Maybe our recollections of Christmas when we were kids are true, or maybe they are embellished or just plain made up. But we all hope to reproduce those "memories" for our own youngsters. Or maybe we want to give them what we didn't have., or to rediscover that youthful joy for ourselves.

But the awe and delight of Christmas eve is hard to fabricate. If it "doesn't come from a store," then where does it come from? Most of us remain, after all these years, still in the dark.

*In him was life,
And the life was the light of men.
The light shines in the darkness,
And the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1:4 RSV)*

It's not called Christ Mass for nothing.

Hope your Advent-ure proves successful, and your Christmas a true blessing.

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Support the Acolytes

December 11th & 18th are the last Sundays to buy Peanuts from the Acolytes!
Fancy Nancy Peanuts make great Christmas presents!!



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Letter from Dallas

Fr. Ed Sholty

"Something's commin', somethin' good...."

I was in my local grocery the day after Labor Day, when all the summer seasonal stuff had been priced to clear. I bet the manager that the Halloween merchandise would be here before we knew it. "It goes up tomorrow," he said with a grimace. Apparently, the Back-to-School promotion had come and gone without notice.

This came to mind as I was talking with a couple of St. Andrew's guys during my last visit and conversation came round to the extremes to which some folks decorate their home exteriors for Christmas. (Down Dallas way, some are so grandiose that special

Congratulations Joe Brauch!

Joe was Received into The Episcopal Church by Bishop Daniel at the Diocesan House in Kinston on November 17.



Christmas Poinsettias

Orders are now being taken.
Large & small plants are available.
Please fill out a form and return to
the church office, Pat Fearing, or
place in the alms basin.
Forms are located in your bulletin or
on the table in the Narthex.



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