

THE MESSENGER

Growing Together in God's Love

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MADISON, CONNECTICUT

JANUARY 2012



St. Andrew's Preschool

Registration for the 2012 fall term for new families will begin in January. Please contact the Preschool Director Judy Goldberg for details by calling 203-245-1308 x2.

New Pledge Numbers

Based on our new faith-based pledging process, we developed a new system to handle weekly pledge envelopes. If you would like to use envelopes for your regular weekly pledge donation, contact Barb in the Parish Office to receive your envelopes and your new pledge number.

May God's great works be with you in the new year.

A Priest's Perspective Pastoral Care and You

As we begin this New Year, many of us are making some type of resolution that we hope to implement in our lives. I would like to invite YOU to think about making pastoral care one of the top priorities in your spiritual resolution category. Now you may be wondering, what is pastoral care and why do I need it in my life?

To begin with the term "pastor" was originally applied to shepherds and their way of life and work with sheep was described as "pastoral." Christians adopted this term early on because Jesus described himself as the Good Shepherd (i.e., pastor) who cares for his flock. In later generations, ordained ministers were called pastors and the care that they provided to the people in their congregations was labeled "pastoral."

Today, we still use this terminology, but the connotation has shifted. Pastoral care was once understood to include all the work that a pastor did with and for people, but in recent times this meaning has narrowed. We now think about pastoral care as the specific ministry to infirmed and homebound people. While it is certainly true that these individuals are included in pastoral care, the truth is that the definition is much broader. *continued on page 4*

Couple's Retreat Planned

Please join us for a special day, focusing on each other! The topics will include couple communication and spirituality. Father Steve and a marriage/family therapist will be our speakers. We will spend the day at the Guest House in Chester on January 28, from 8:30 am to 5 pm. Refreshments and lunch are included in the cost of \$82 per couple.

If you have any questions, please call Lisa Preikszas at 203-421-8431. Information also is located outside the door of her office.

12th Night Dinner

Join us on Saturday, January 7 at 5:00 pm for our **annual Twelfth Night Dinner** — as we celebrate the gifts of our parish and those of our youth.

Bring your favorite casserole, chili, soup, side dish, or dessert to feed 12 — and we'll provide the beverages! Invite a friend, too.

Enjoy the potluck dinner before attending a **musical performance of Nonsense** directed by Joy Weaver. The fabulous youth of St. Andrew's will delight the audience with this show at 7:00 pm. If you've never seen one of Joy's productions, you are in for a real treat! The suggested donation for the performance is \$5 per person.

Those who wish to stay and socialize in Farmer Hall may do so while others leave to see the show. Don't miss all of the fun!

If you have any questions, please call Donna Johansen at 203-245-6729.

50th Anniversary News

As we move into the last six months of our celebration, we reflect on the events of the past year and their significance. We spent the year recognizing the many ministries that are part of our life at St. Andrew's. We will conclude with a celebration of the Counters Team Ministry on January 8. The number of people involved with the work of our church is truly amazing and so many have preceded us. It is through our ministry work that we reflect what our faith means to us and the responsibility for taking care of this place which has been entrusted to us. The future of St. Andrew's will depend on how well we do our work. What will the next generation think of the church they inherit; what will carry forward; what will change? *continued on page 2*

Our Mission — To deepen faith and transform the world as Christ calls us through joyful worship, music, study, and service to others.

Serendipity Meeting on January 5

Serendipity, St. Andrew's consignment shop, is at a crossroads. After six years of faithful service, the store managers are moving on to other ministries. So now is the time for all of us to think about new directions, a new appearance, a new outlook for this wonderful outreach ministry which brings joy to so many – to the volunteers, movers and decorators who faithfully minister; to the consignors and donators who bring their memories and treasures; to the outreach ministries who receive many benefits; and to community members who find peace and healing each week in this shop.

Over the past years of experience, Serendipity has developed a powerful identity, but also one which may be getting a bit worn. All of us who worship at St. Andrew's have a vested interest in the shop. Now we need to rethink creatively its future identity as an outreach ministry. Would we prefer to accept only furniture? Should we only accept consignment, not donations? Should we restrict open hours of the shop? Should we accept consignment during stated monthly periods only? How should we reconstruct our managerial teams – responsibility for only certain months each year?

Serendipity belongs to the congregation, and so we all (men included) need to meet and recreate this ministry. We will have an open meeting at St. Andrew's on Thursday, January 5 at 7 pm. (Snow day substitute is Monday, January 9.)

Join us and let's create new directions for this wonderful community ministry.



50th Anniversary: Be Part of This Special Time

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Our 50th Anniversary Community Project as seen through our flag display and the Veterans Event on November 12, spread the word into the larger community that we are a parish that respects the contributions of others and took the time to say "thank you." Many contributed to the success of the day and visitors repeatedly commented on the welcome they received. It was a good day to be a member of St. Andrew's.

Thank you for contributing your thoughts to the tree in the narthex. The timeline of our church has been added. Feel free to add your reflections through the green forms. We encourage everyone to compose a short paragraph that tells your experience while a member of our church. It is the vision of our history document that it will tell a story of the people who make St. Andrew's what it is. These can be put in the 50th Anniversary mailbox in the hallway. Hopefully our youngest members have learned a little bit of our history through our celebrations.

Over the next few months, we will write our history document and catalog what we collected as we have done our research. It will be there for those who follow us, updated by our experiences and accomplishments. In June, we have a special day to bring our celebration to a close. We will be working on those plans. Anyone interested in helping us, just need contact us.

Thank you to Fr. Steve for his interest, encouragement, involvement and patience. We are truly blessed to have him with us at this point in our history.

Wishing all of you and those you love a Happy New Year, and may our parish home continue to be blessed by God's love.

SAVE THE DATE – June 16, 2012

– Maggie & Charlie Walden,
Co-chairs
50th Anniversary Committee
203-318-5045
mccwalden@yahoo.com

Feed Thy Neighbor

The challenging news – Madison Community Services Food Pantry saw record numbers of clients recently and distributed record amounts of food.

The encouraging news: We continue to donate food to support their efforts. Now, there is an opportunity to do more.

The Food Pantry will start a pilot program in April to expand hours of operation and give more opportunity for those in need to access the service, especially those who are unable to shop during the day. More volunteers are needed if this program is to be successful. The hours would be 6-7:30 pm on Tuesday evenings at the Pantry located in Unit 3 at 50 Mungertown Road.

If you are interested in giving your time to this most fulfilling and important work, please contact Madison Community Services Food Pantry Chairpersons – Margaret Diglio at margaretdiglio@snet.net or Vinny Diglio at vincent.diglio@snet.net.

Bauer Lecture Series

St. Andrew's Church and the Friends of Hammonasset will sponsor the Bauer Lecture Series at 10:00 am in February.

• **February 4 – Live bird presentation** by "A Place Called Hope" will be presented by Christine Cummings-Secki and Todd Secki.

• **February 11 – Live Amphibian Show** presented by Ranger Russ Miller, Director, Meigs Point Nature Center.

• **February 18 – Exotic & Tropical Creatures** presented by Beardsley Zoo.

• **February 25 – Guided Geology and Native American Land-Use Hike** (Note: Meet at Meigs Point Nature Center at 10 am) Led by Gary Nolf, World Atlatl Association, and Don Rankin, Docent of Meigs Point Nature Center. An Archaeology Roadshow will be in the Nature Center until 2pm. Bring artifacts for identification.

These free programs are open to the public and appropriate for all ages. For more information, call Don Rankin at 203-245-9192.

Church School and Youth Activities

■ Church School

• **Registration is ongoing** and the information provided allows teachers to reach parents in an emergency. If you are welcoming friends to church school, please ask them to complete a registration form, located outside of Lisa Preikszas' office. Also, you can send the visitors to Lisa for information about our programs.

• **A special thanks** to Sandy Butler, Susan Wines, and Cathy Golden for coordinating our annual Christmas Pageant.

• **First Holy Communion preparation** occurs every other week in the 1st/2nd grade class. A Eucharist dinner lesson is scheduled for Sunday, March 11, which will include Father Steve. First Holy Communion is scheduled for May 20, 2012.

■ Youth Group News

• **The H.O.M.E. Trip**, scheduled for July, is in the planning process and is open to applicants. During January, brainstorming meetings regarding fundraising will be announced. Watch for email updates. Any questions, please email stazyouth@gmail.com and include HOME in the subject line.

• **Middle School Youth Group** — the kids met in December to decorate cookies, participate in a Yankee Swap, and sing Christmas carols. December 31, parishioners of all ages went to a UConn basketball game.



Father Steve read to the Preschool class in December. Mystery Readers are welcome to read to the class. Please see Miss Abby to sign up.

Preschool News

In celebration of "Hi Neighbor" month in December, the Preschool will donate a tree to be planted on the grounds of St. Andrew's.

— Judy Goldberg
St. Andrew's Preschool Director

Treasurer's Report

Financial results for 2011 will be presented at the Parish Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29 and will be available as part of the Church Annual Report.

Church operations through November of 2011 showed a deficit for the year of \$27,816. Pledge income through November was \$240,601. The total amount pledged by parishioners for the fiscal year 2011 was \$277,060, of which \$36,456 was unpaid as of November 30.

Gross receipts from the Holiday Fair held December 3 were \$9,833 — a wonderful product of the hard work of the team of Fair volunteers. Total Holiday Fair expenses had not been finalized as of the *Messenger's* publication deadline, but net income is expected to be well in excess of \$8,000.

My term is nearing the end. It has been a pleasure serving as Treasurer these past two years. I have truly enjoyed getting to know so many parishioners and feeling a part of St. Andrew's.

— Helen Van Antwerp,
Treasurer

St. Andrew's Book Fund

My parents, Lois and Gene Hebrank, loved St. Andrew's where they worshipped for more than twenty years. Since I began to worship weekly at this church, I have wanted to give a special gift in their name to the church. The 50th anniversary celebration seemed a very good time. After much thought, my family and I have established a Book Fund at St. Andrew's.

This fund will cover the cost of books, training or curricula materials as related to St. Andrew's Church school, youth groups, adult education, pastoral care and healing teams, and other people within St. Andrew's Church that utilize published materials for spiritual development programs or ministries. Distributions will be made at the discretion of the Church Rector for these purposes.

While I envision my contributions as a form of planned giving independent of my annual pledge, in memory of my parents, I hope that others will make gifts to this fund in memory of their loved ones, or as gifts of thanksgiving to this church.

In these hard times, God seems closer. I hope from this small beginning we can grow a fund that will give back in multiple ways to God who gives us so much each day. I think my parents would be pleased, and I hope you will join with me to give here or in other ways to God's community and St. Andrew's Church.

— Helen Kitman

My First Holiday Fair

This will be my family's third year living in Connecticut. This year, I was thrilled to be here and help plan aspects of the fair. In my new position, I had a "behind the scenes" look at everything involved in preparing this event. The fair is a well-oiled machine, however, without the oil it will not run. St. Andrew's staff and parishioners make up the "oil" and fulfilled their duties for an event they are obviously dedicated to. Much preparation was needed and long hours were spent at the church. When I arrived early Saturday, people were busy with last minute details. Before I knew it, the doors opened and the day began! I felt the positive, festive energy among us throughout the day. My children were at the church with smiles on their faces. They were excited and involved in what was going on around them. Visiting the Bottle Shop, helping in the Café, assisting children in the Craft Room, and helping Santa. It was heartwarming. A wonderful day was spent together, with a common goal of having a good time and a successful fair. A special 'thank you' to everyone involved (before, during, and clean up), for their hard work and dedication to St. Andrew's.

— Lisa Preikszas

JANUARY 2012

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 10:00 am Holy Eucharist	2	3	4 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	5 6:00 pm — Spirit Choir 7:00 pm Serendipity Mtg.	6 7:00 pm Performance of Nunsense	7 5:00 pm Twelfth Night Dinner 7:00 pm Performance of Nunsense
8 8:00, 9:15 and 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	9 7:00 pm Pastoral Care Meeting	10 7:00 pm Executive Comm. Mtg. 7:00 pm Church School Mtg.	11 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	12 6:00 pm — Spirit Choir	13	14
15 8:00, 9:15 and 11:00 am Holy Eucharist Deadline for <i>The Messenger</i>	16 Parish Office Closed	17 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	18 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	19 6:00 pm — Spirit Choir 7:00 pm Welcoming Comm. Mtg.	20	21
22 8:00, 9:15 and 11:00 am Holy Eucharist	23	24	25 9:00 am Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm Outreach Meeting	26 6:00 pm — Spirit Choir	27	28 Couples Retreat (see page 1)
29 One service — 10:00 am Holy Eucharist followed by Annual Meeting and lunch	30	31				
Check St. Andrew's weekly eNews for the most up-to-date announcements. To receive our eNews , go to — www.standrewsmadison.org — and sign up on the home page.						

A Priest's Perspective — Pastoral Care and You...

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Pastoral care is perfect for anyone who is experiencing any physical, emotional or spiritual condition that is creating pain, anxiety, isolation or concern. Whether it is an illness, operation, accident, loss or trauma that keeps you away from your regular routine, pastoral care is right for you. It doesn't matter if the duration is a few days or several years, we are here for you. Yes, I said WE.

St. Andrew's has a committed group of people engaged in pastoral care ministry. You may not have realized this, but pastoral care is not just something the priest does. Pastoral ministry includes the healing team, parishioners who gather at the back of church during communion to pray with people and it also encompasses the women who knit the beautiful prayer shawls. Loaves and fishes is the

team that brings food to your home, and prayer chain members are regularly praying for you while the shepherds and Eucharistic ministers visit you to talk, listen, pray and share communion.

This is the comprehensive pastoral care team that is available to walk with you during your time of need. You may be surprised to learn, however, that this team is underutilized. It seems that we Christians are good at taking care of others, but we have a very difficult time asking for any type of assistance for ourselves.

Yes, we are proud, independent and self-reliant, and most of us do not like to appear vulnerable, weak or not in control. It is challenging to admit that something is happening in our lives that we cannot fix. It is also true that many of us are private people and we don't really want others knowing our personal

business. I assure you that your confidentiality will be respected.

As people of faith, we are called over and over again to comfort those who mourn, to feed those who are hungry, to visit those who are sick, to pray for those in need and to share the body of Christ with one another. This is not just something we do for "those" people out there, it is what we do for each other. All of us at some point fit this description.

So as 2012 begins to unfold, I invite you to take advantage of the St. Andrew's pastoral care team. No situation is too great or too small. Please speak to anyone on the team or contact the office to let the Parish Administrator or myself know how we may assist, and please encourage others to do the same.

Blessings,
Fr. Steve

A Report on the Annual Diocesan Convention in October 2011

The 227th Annual Diocesan Convention was held October 21-22 at the Hartford Marriott in Farmington, CT. Lynn Milner and I attended as voting lay delegates. Father Steve attended as a priest in the Diocese.

The following paragraph and resolution summary is taken from the Diocesan website:

The Convention had a new format and its theme was on "Putting God's Mission First." Together the delegates, clergy, and others looked at the challenges, choices, and opportunities for Putting God's Mission First as individuals, as members of local Eucharistic communities, and as a Diocese. They worshiped, prayed, studied Scripture, explored our common life, and took counsel together. They listened to each other to hear how God is calling us and how we will use our common resources in service to God's mission of restoration and reconciliation. The Convention also considered all canonically required business items and actions

- *We voted to affirm our common participation as the Diocese of Connecticut in God's mission of restoration and reconciliation, and accepted the invitation to mutual responsibility and interdependence.*

- *We reaffirmed that the financial contribution of each parish toward the common mission and common resources is 12.5% of operating income. We identified benefits and consequences of participation at less than 10%.*

- *We approved a minimum salary for clergy.*

- *We approved changing our canons so that we can participate in the mandatory denominational health plan, although we delayed its implementation until January 2013.*

- *We voted to revise Canon IX, which will let us appoint a Church Attorney who is not a "Member of the Church."*

- *We approved a non-binding resolution asking the bishop to permit clergy to officiate at same-sex weddings.*

- *We voted to "endeavor to" adopt the Genesis Covenant principles; urged all local eucharistic communities to evaluate and reduce energy use and to perform an energy audit. We authorized creating a*

new task force to help local eucharistic communities implement these plans.

- *We approved asking every local eucharistic community to study and discuss, "A Circle of Protection: A Statement on Why We Need to Protect Programs for the Poor."*

- *We endorsed the August 3, 2011 "Proclamation of the Refugee Congress."*

- *We approved a resolution declaring a year of dialogue on "communion of the unbaptized" [Note: no implementation info].*

- *We postponed a resolution to endorse the Marriage Encounter Movement*

- *We authorized moving Diocesan House, giving authority to the Bishop and Diocesan Executive Council to research and act.*

- *We approved a change in the standing Rules of Order, reducing the time before Convention that nominees for Standing Committee need to be identified.*

Here are some of my thoughts regarding the convention:

I have attended, I think, three or four conventions previously and will always be grateful that I was able to cast a vote a few years ago in favor of the election of Bishop Ahrens. And now I am equally appreciative of being present at the first convention of what may be a new era of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut. We have been fortunate to have had many dedicated people and exceptional bishops working hard to facilitate the work of the parishes. And as the current rapid rate of changes in our economy and social structures are creating much difficulty in both our personal and parish lives, we are equally fortunate to have leadership that is committed to implementing the changes in the Diocese and the parishes necessary to keep our faith communities vital.

One word can describe this year's convention — 'relevant.' The new venue and the new meeting format were excellent. Meeting in a large banquet hall of a modern hotel created a sense that we were conducting important business that had meaning in our daily lives. The format of active engagement in frequent discussion among attendees served well

to create the sense of engagement and ownership. The music was wonderful and very effectively interspersed throughout the meeting.

And the best part? The theme of 'Putting God's Mission First' that was carried throughout the meeting and was the heart of the Bishop's Address.

The following excerpt I find relevant to us today:

"Now many of the discussions looking at what God is up to in the world today reference a new understanding of the Church as being missional — the missional Church. The emphasis here is on the mission of God, not the mission of the Church. Let me say that again, the emphasis here is on the mission of God, not the mission of the Church. Our vocation as Christians, by virtue of our baptism, is to participate with God in God's mission of restoration and reconciliation in the world; to heal the brokenness, division and alienation in the world around us, seeking right relation with God and each other in Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit. In short, our baptismal work is to restore all people, and all creation, to unity with God and each other in Christ. Our work is not to keep some 20th century, or even earlier model, of the Church in business. Our work is to put God's mission first, not the Church first."

*Thank you,
Bishop Douglas*

Please visit the Diocesan website convention page at www.ctepiscopal.org/Content/2011_Convention.asp — where you will find much information including the Bishop's Address to the Convention, the full text of the resolutions, and a wonderful set of pictures.

— John Paulson

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

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The Parish Staff

Priest-In-Charge	Rev. Steve Domienik
Parish Administrator	Barbara Gibbons
Preschool Director	Judy Goldberg
Church School Director	Lisa Preikszas
Organist & Chancel Choir Director	Paul Jordan
Director of Musicals	Joy Weaver
Guitarist	Jim Olden
Sexton and Verger	David Mikus

The Parish Vestry

Senior Warden	David Karas
Junior Warden	Kristen Garnett
Treasurer	Helen Van Antwerp
Clerk of the Vestry	Michael Greene

Chris Abbott, Sandra Butler, Art Criddle, Florie Earle,
Susan McCann, Brenda Naegel, John Paulson,
Martha Stewart, and Robert Stimpson

Choir Rehearsal Schedule

■ **Spirit Choir** — Thursday Rehearsal 6:00 - 7:00 pm
Sunday Rehearsal at 8:30 am

This choir is for everyone — age 6 through adult — and sings each Sunday morning at the 9:15 am service during the school year. The selections include a varied palette of musical styles, including gospel, jazz, folk, and contemporary music.

The Easiest Way to Give

When using Stop & Shop cards, **5% of all purchases go directly to St. Andrew's!** Buy these cards after each service, at coffee hour, or during the week in the church office. Visa

THE MESSENGER is a monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. Contributions are always welcome. The deadline is the 15th of the preceding month. Please send an e-mail to messenger@standrewsmadison.org. All articles may be edited for space, style, and content. Editor: Denise Forrest



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