

# THE MESSENGER

*Growing Together in God's Love*

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MADISON, CONNECTICUT

FEBRUARY 2010



## Souper Bowl

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, please help us raise money for those in need. Your donation to the "Souper Bowl" collection will go directly to aid local food distribution sites. See page 3.

## Madison Cares

On Saturday, February 13, come help work on a Habitat for Humanity house in New Haven. Enjoy a day of full of fun, fellowship, and accomplishment with Madison Cares folks. See page 4.

## Serendipity

Find some special Valentine gifts at Serendipity! Profits help St. Andrew's and the Outreach Fund.

## Rector's Reflections

### ■ Transitioning from Epiphany to Lent

*"The Christian mysteries are an indivisible whole. If we become immersed in one, we are led to all the others. Thus the way from Bethlehem leads inevitably to Golgotha, from the crib to the cross. When the blessed virgin brought the child to the temple, Simeon prophesied that her soul would be pierced by a sword, that this child was set for a fall and the resurrection of many, for a sign that would be contradicted. His prophecy announced the passion, the fight between light and darkness that already showed itself before the crib."*

— Edith Stein

With this month's newsletter covering both Epiphany and Lent, we find ourselves moving prophetically from the celebration of the light of Epiphany to the darkness and soul searching of Lent. The Lenten disciplines that we are invited to practice

*continued on page 2*

## Changes During Lent

During Lent, our worship color and adornments change plus the liturgy itself changes. Last year, the covering of the stained glass window behind the altar was very much appreciated by the congregation. The survey done following Lent was overwhelmingly supportive of the Lenten changes. It is my hope that this year, we can once again cover the stained glass window behind the altar and drape the crosses in purple. These visual changes, along with changes in liturgy, serve to remind us that Lent is different and that we are exploring our relationship with God in a different way. They also help to make the Easter celebration fresh and new again, like finding a long lost and loved friend. If you have any questions about the changes, please contact me ([rectorstandrews@aol.com](mailto:rectorstandrews@aol.com) or 203-245-2584, ext. 1).

— Faithfully yours, Pastor Mary

## Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17

The Imposition of Ashes and Holy Eucharist will be offered on Ash Wednesday at 12 noon and 7:00 pm. The imposition of ashes is optional. The purpose of the Ash Wednesday service is to bring to the fore our dependence on God and to remind us that, while God is infinite, we are finite, and to dust we shall return.

## Lenten Adult Education

During Lent, join Pastor Mary on Wednesday evenings at 7 pm for an exploration of Christian mystics. Christian mysticism is the pursuit of communion with, identity with, or conscious awareness of God through direct experience, intuition, instinct or insight. Christian mysticism usually centers on practices, such as meditation and contemplation, which are intended to nurture those experiences or awareness. This approach and lifestyle is distinguished from other forms of Christian practice by its aim of achieving unity with the divine.

*continued on page 2*

## Free Lecture Series Shows Environmental 'Treasures'

St. Andrew's Church and The Friends of Hammonasset invite you to attend the Bauer Lecture Series on Saturday mornings in February. The series of free lectures will begin at 10:00 am at St. Andrew's. Each presentation will be followed by a guided walk at 1:00 pm at different locations.

● February 6, "**A Place Called Hope — Live bird presentation**" with Todd Secki and Christine Cummings-Secki. John Picard of the Menunkatuck Audubon will

*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.***

## Rector's Reflections

*continued from page 1*

are not to make us feel unworthy, rather they are intended to remind us of how very lives are dependent on God. In Lent, by making a sacrifice or adding something to our lives (both are effective spiritual practices), we are reminded of God each time we realize the change we've made in our lives. For example, some people will add an outreach project during Lent, such as donating a coin for each time they're giving thanks, while others will sacrifice something, perhaps meat. Each time we make that donation or don't eat meat, we remember God and offer a prayer of praise. It is hoped that Lent can be a time of inner reflection and soul searching, a time to grow closer to God.

In the Episcopal Church, as in the Roman and Orthodox Churches, the Rite of Reconciliation is always available. More commonly this Rite is known as "confession." In the Episcopal Church we offer the general confession each week in worship, but sometimes people find that a particular item or issues still weighing on them. If anyone believes he or she would benefit from Rite of Reconciliation, please contact me. It is private and confidential and can be administered in my office or the church. Some people find it particularly helpful in Lent as a means to grow ever closer to God.

Faithfully yours, Pastor Mary

## Lenten Adult Education

*continued from page 1*

As Oswald Chambers said, "We receive His blessings and know His Word, but do we know Him?"

We will start with St. Anthony, the first desert father and Christian mystic (251 -356 A.D.), and also study Julian of Norwich (1342-1416), Hildegard of Bingen (1098-1179), and Thomas a Kempis (1380-1471), among others.

Classes begin at 7 pm on February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24. Please register with Barb Gibbons so that we know how many handouts to prepare.



## Free Environmental Lecture Series

*continued from page 1*

lead a guided bird walk at Hammonasset Beach State Park at 1 pm. Participants are to meet at Meigs Point Nature Center parking lot.

- February 13, "**Live Reptile Show**" by Russ Miller of the Meigs Point Nature Center. Following the presentation, a guided hike on the Shoreline Greenway Trial segment at Hammonasset Beach State Park will be led by Ginny Raff. Ranger Russ Miller will make comments on the salt marsh habitat. Participants will meet at the campground parking lot.

- February 20, "**Live Bat Program**" by Gerri Griswold from the White Memorial Conservation Center. At 1 pm, Don Rankin will lead a guided hike to Indian Rock Shelters in North Madison. Gary Nolf, Friends of CT State Archaeology, will comment on Native American use of these caves. Allan Saunders, Mohegan, will perform a smudging ceremony at the site and "calling of the ancestors" drumming song in the Mohegan language.

- February 27, "**Bears in CT**" presentation by Master Wildlife Conservationist Felicia Ortner, CT DEP. At 1:00 pm, we will showcase Bauer Park featuring barn restoration, tours of the farmhouse, a guided trail walk, and a scavenger hunt.

All lectures and walks are free and appropriate for all ages. Light refreshments will be served after the morning talks. Families are especially invited to attend. No dogs are allowed on guided walks.

For more details, call Don Rankin at 245-9192. Hope to see you there!

## Thank You for Talking with the Diocesan Consultant

I want to take a moment to thank everyone that participated in the interview process with our diocesan consultant. It took no small amount of courage to come forward and candidly discuss our church and our relationships with a relative stranger. As your junior warden, I am just humbled by the conviction and passion I've heard in everyone's voices. It speaks to me of an abiding love we all hold for St. Andrew's.

A wise person once told me to stop living life as a series of milestones to accomplish, to stop thinking, "Once I get this job..." or "After we pay the student loans off..." or "Once we do this, that, and the other..." She told me to stop living in the future, and to live, love, and be in the present. I think the smartest thing I ever did was to marry that wise person! The joy in life is living through it and hopefully learning through it. As James Taylor once sang, "*The secret of life is enjoying the passage of time.*" So, too, is this diocesan process; we will come out the other end having learned something about ourselves, hopefully with a stronger relationship with God and with each other. Now that's something to be thankful for!

Peace,  
Matt Parthasarthy

## Adult Retreat Plans

We are planning a retreat for either Friday evening, March 6, 7-10 pm or Saturday, March 7, 9am - noon. This is an adults-only event! Send an e-mail to Mary MS at [themsgroup@snet.net](mailto:themsgroup@snet.net) if you are interested in being part of this wonderful event!

## Shop at Serendipity!

Why shop for your Valentine at Serendipity Consignments?

1. We love you!
2. You love us!
3. Our profits go to help St. Andrew's and the Outreach Fund. We love both.



# Church School, Youth Groups, and More

Recently, I was asked to speak about gratitude at the Bar Mitzvah for the son of a dear friend. As I mulled over what words of inspiration to impart, I thought of Haiti — the rising death toll from the earthquake, the total devastation of an entire city, a nation that seems to bear flags with “Kick Me” printed all over them. And yet, women gather to sing songs of praise, songs to thank a God that can let all of this happen and yet one Who steadfastly loves.

Count your blessings. Name them, list them, draw them, but count them. To truly feel gratitude as part of a lifestyle of a grateful heart, you have to acknowledge your blessings. Eric Hoffer, American writer and philosopher, once said, “*The hardest arithmetic to master is that which enables us to count our blessings.*” What does your list look like?

## ■ Church School News

Our ranks have grown to over 140! Registration is ongoing and allows teachers to reach parents in the event of an emergency. If you are welcoming friends to church school, please ask them to come to Mary MS’ office to complete the appropriate forms.

- **Lent** sneaks in — Wednesday, February 17 — while many of us are away over break. Our annual Lenten pretzel bake will be held in Farmer Hall on February 28 during church school. Come and join the fun! Adults are welcome to visit in the narthex for coffee. If you are interested in volunteering for this special event (kitchen help needed), send an e-mail to [themsgroup@snet.net](mailto:themsgroup@snet.net).

## Women’s Group News

The **Mom’s Group** officially **changed its name to the Women’s Group** continues to meet at 53 Liberty Street on Thursdays at noon. Contact Jen Conroy for details at 779-5420 or send an e-mail to [jenmconroy@gmail.com](mailto:jenmconroy@gmail.com). This small and friendly group meets weekly to pray for one another.

- **No church school February 14.** Happy Valentine’s Day! There will be church school on February 21.

- **Vacation Bible School** planning is underway, and we are looking for creative, or just happy, worker bees to assist this summer. VBS is typically held the week following the end of school, 9 am -12 noon. Week-long volunteers receive free tuition for their children, and free babysitting is provided for volunteers while you work!

## ■ Youth Group News

- **Souper Bowl Sunday**, February 7 at 2:00 pm — flag football on the Green for all high school students, with friendly competition among Madison youth groups! Dress warm! Please bring canned goods to church or to the game and bring \$5 for pizza. Pick up is at 4 pm at St. Margaret’s. (A snow or sun event!)

- **Youth Services Opportunity Project.** The high school youth group head to Manhattan, February 19-20, for this homeless immersion program. We will stay at the Quaker Meetinghouse at 15th Street and spend Friday evening making a meal and serving the homeless. Saturday is spent at various soup kitchens and relief sites making breakfast and lunch, serving hungry families and cleaning up. This is open to all 9-12th Graders, and we are grateful to the Pardee Fund for defraying a large portion of the cost. Please keep these young people in your prayers.

- **H.O.M.E. Update** — Grades 9-12 Each summer, the youth group goes on a mission trip to rural Maine to work for an organization called Homeowners Organized for More Employment (H.O.M.E.). They build and repair homes for the needy. The trip is full and meetings for participants are monthly. The next meeting is February 26 at 7:00 pm.

- **Progressive Dinner** — Save the date — March 14, 4-7 pm. St. Andrew’s will host the appetizer portion of the second annual progressive dinner among Madison faith communities. Want to help? Send an e-mail to Mary Merkle-Scotland at [themsgroup@snet.net](mailto:themsgroup@snet.net).

— Mary Merkle-Scotland  
[themsgroup@snet.net](mailto:themsgroup@snet.net)

## ‘Souper Bowl’ Sunday Outreach Fundraiser

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 7, please help us raise money for those in our local area who need hot meals. Your donation to the “Souper Bowl” collection, staffed by our beloved Bea Fortin, will go directly to aid local food distribution sites. Last year, the Outreach Committee matched the amount that Bea collected. Let’s break a Souper Bowl record this year — the need is tremendous!

## Preschool News

As the adults grumble about the cold, the children of St. Andrew’s Preschool are taking full advantage of the opportunities that winter provides for science, art, and literature. As it turns out, frozen colored water is a fabulous medium for painting in pastel colors. Have you ever watched a snowball melt? It appears to change color, as well as form and texture.

The Playground Committee continues its work researching and planning for a revitalized playground! We are so excited to host Casey Carle and his **magical BubbleMania bubbles at Polson Middle School on Sunday, March 21 at 3:00.** To reserve your seats at \$10.00 per person, send an e-mail to Leah Ann at [leahann@standrewsmadison.org](mailto:leahann@standrewsmadison.org). Seats will be \$12.00 at the door. Our goal is to fill 400 seats!

Registration for the 2010-2011 school year is well underway. There are openings in all of our programs from 2s through PreK/K. For the schedule, fees, and registration form, check out the St. Andrew’s Church web site or call Leah Ann at (203) 245-1308.

Keep St. Andrew’s Preschool in mind for summer fun! The schedule will be available by March 1.

As always, we thank you for your prayers!

— Leah Ann Portley

## “Winter Doesn’t Leave Without Blustery Battles”

Lent is not tidy. Days grow longer (the word “Lent” comes from “lengthen”), the ground thaws, and the next thing we know, everything is filthy. Our windows need washing, our temples need cleansing, the earth itself needs a good bath. The English names for these months come from ancient words that reflect the need to roll up our sleeves this season: February (“purification”) and March (“the spirit of war”). Winter doesn’t leave without blustery battles that push things over and mess things up and even break things. Lent, if we honestly face its fury, will leave the landscape littered with bits and pieces of ourselves.

Sometimes the only antidote is to take more of the poison. And so on our foreheads we rub dirt: Eden gone to ashes, the dustbin emptied of a winter’s worth of soot, last year’s leaves riddled with worms, the broken earth turned by the plow, the dry earth thirsty for water to make it clay of a new creation. And

when Lent is done and the Passover arrives, we’ll have enough water in abundance, water to bathe our feet and water to drown the demons and water to wash away the winter. And, as Bishop Ambrose reminds us, even if we forget to fill the font, there’ll be water in abundance in our tears.

— *A Lent Sourcebook: The Forty Days, Book One*, Liturgy Training Publications, Archdiocese of Chicago, 1990. (Introduction)

### Stay Current with eNews

Our electronic update contains scripture lessons and announcements. To receive **eNews**, go to — [www.standrewsmadison.org](http://www.standrewsmadison.org) — and sign up on the home page.

## Get Ready to Rock

St. Andrews will host a **U2charist** on Saturday, April 24. A U2charist is a liturgical service (including communion) that features the music of the rock band U2 and a message about God’s call to rally around the Millennium Development Goals. The U2charist is a great opportunity to reach out to people in the community with messages of global reconciliation and justice for the poor and oppressed. Bono, U2’s lead singer, has been a particularly vocal proponent of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), and has been proclaimed as a global MDG ambassador. The U2charist seeks to raise awareness of the MDG and call people worldwide to a deeper faith and engagement with God’s mission.

For more information or to help plan this event, send an e-mail to Rich Fisler at [rfisler@beachhead.com](mailto:rfisler@beachhead.com).

## You Don’t Have To Go Far To Help

You’re not going to believe this. The great folks at Madison Cares have given us another opportunity to help. On Saturday, February 13, we’ll meet at the church at 8:00 am and head to New Haven together to enjoy a day of fun, fellowship, and accomplishment.

For the people who have never spent a Saturday working on a Habitat for Humanity house, this is your chance. What makes it special is brisk weather, plenty of dust, and great fellowship. Please ask Laura Downes, Dick Johansen, Darryl McCann, Tom Dahl, or me about the great time we had on January 9. Or just show up with your lunch, warm clothes, and a smile on your face. For more information, go to [habitatgnh.org](http://habitatgnh.org) (and watch the safety video) or call me at 203-245-3220.

— Glenn Stewart

## Treasurer’s Notes

Year-end giving statements were mailed January 17. Please contact Barbara Gibbons, Parish Administrator if you have not received your statement, or if you have questions regarding the statement itself.

At the Special Parish Meeting held January 10, a quorum of Parish members was present and voted to designate funds from the Endowment to pay interest and principal on the Parish’s two existing loans through January 2011. The monthly amount of the payments is, coincidentally, \$2,011. The payments by the Endowment will help mitigate some of the stress on the Parish’s cash position created by declines in pledge and fundraiser income. The value of the Endowment at December 31, 2009 was \$414,675, up slightly from December 31, 2008, despite our withdrawal of a total of \$79,000 during 2009 for the roof and septic projects as well as Church operations.

Full 2009 financial results will be available prior to the Annual Meeting, currently scheduled for March 14, 2010.

— Bill Downes, Treasurer

## Team Uganda Update

Continued enthusiastic support of Team Uganda and its ministry improves the lives of our sponsored orphans — Timothy, Catherine, Calvin and Josephine plus the 106 orphans at The Chain Foundation.

Great news — we applied for a “Millennium Development Fund” grant for help in purchasing a diesel generator from our Connecticut Diocese, and it was approved! This generator will enable the orphanage to maintain electricity during the daily power outages. It gives us great joy to be able to help The Chain Foundation orphanage in this way.

Retired Archbishop Livingstone Nkoyoyo, who founded The Chain Foundation orphanage upon his retirement in 2004, will visit us in Madison at St. Andrew’s during Holy Week. It is an honor to host him once again — and to send the love and compassion of friends at St. Andrew’s back to the children in Uganda.

— Alwyn Thorpe

# A Look Into the Musician's 'Laboratory' — An Organist Considers Preludes & Postludes

## ■ I. Prelude — The First Ideal

Having taken the position at St. Andrew's, with my main mandate described as Organist and Chancel Choir Director — i.e., musician for our 11:00 o'clock worship — I'm trying to work out a systematic approach to the use of my repertoire for the beginnings and endings of worship.

It strikes me that, "hierarchically" speaking, the first type of prelude or postlude is that rare one which by virtue of textual/musical content 'corresponds' to verbal meanings found in the worship plan, sermon or liturgy for the particular Sunday in question. One always needs to be on the lookout for opportunities to use prelude and/or postlude to forge more direct, as well as deeper interconnections, among the components of worship.

## ■ II. Organ Music 'About' Hymns (big topic in a nutshell)

Related to this project is the use of organ compositions that make specific reference, not to texts of sermon or of regular items of liturgy, but to one or more of the hymns to be included in a particular service. In many cases, the church musician is given the hymns by the clergy at the same time that the priest reveals these choices for publication in the service bulletin — by which time, it is usually too late to search the repertoire and (re-)practice the piece that would be a perfect 'match' to, if not indeed a great composer's specific interpretation of, one of the selected hymns. In our case, inasmuch as Pastor Mary has specified the selection of the majority of hymns as one of my weekly duties, the 'ideal' would be that I could make these choices well enough in advance to permit the coordination of the prelude or postlude selections with them. While in real life ideals come rarely enough into realization, it is ever desirable and often worthwhile to strive in their direction... A complexity of hymn-related organ music derives from the duality of hymns themselves, consisting of, and being remembered by, both texts and tunes. While some hymn-based or hymn-

derived organ compositions relate in equal measure to both components, many emphasize either the textual/poetic meanings or, primarily, the tune (as an 'independent' musical object) at the expense of the other. (To be sure, the familiar tune, even when seemingly alienated from the text, can by itself often still evoke hymnological/theological associations in the worshipper.)

## ■ III. Just a Mood, or Some Real Meaning?

Another kind of prelude or postlude is one that corresponds in general mood or expression to one's understanding of the overall meaning or character of a particular worship service or, of course, of the particular period of the church year (e.g., Easter's triumph, Advent's contemplative waiting, and so forth). In some instances these considerations can become rather complex. On Palm Sunday, for example, one would like the organ music — potentially forming an even more "holistic" interpretation of the event than the individual hymn — to reflect not just the momentarily apparent victory of Christ's welcomed entry into Jerusalem nor just the lurking tragedy of betrayal and crucifixion behind and beyond it. But, somehow portray the mysterious, deceptive, even subliminally menacing combination of the two.

— Paul Jordan

## 12th Night — A Success!

A fabulous 12th Night potluck dinner was attended by more than 100 parishioners plus family members of the cast of *Altar Boyz and Girlz*. Many thanks to Donna Johansen for organizing the dinner. Donna was responsible for the ham, beverages, decorations, set up and clean up — great job Donna! Also thanks to Brenda Naegel for keeping us 'green' by donating all of the biodegradable plates and bowls. Who knew there were so many great chefs in our parish? The food was bountiful and delicious.

## Theatrical Tidbits

In January, our Senior Performance Troupe presented *Altar Boyz and Girlz*. With different styles of pop music, wonderful dance and great humor, this show was loved by all. I was so happy with all of the kids' accomplishments and overwhelmed by both the size of the audiences and the positive response for all the kids. Combining our Saturday night performance with the 12th Night Dinner was a huge success. A special thank you to Brooke Baumgartel, Kendall Daub, Em Filer, Emily Fisler, Caroline and Katharine Garnett, Beth Gilchrist, Matt Gregory, George Honorof, Cassandra Kolstad, Aimee Merkle-Scotland, Joey Milner, Tori Milner, Conor Molloy, Tom O'Sullivan, Kelsey Page, Luke Scaros, Meggie Stewart, Michelle Tenney, Cori Zachos, and Demi Zachos for their dedication, hard work and support of each other all through the rehearsal and performance process. These are all GREAT kids to work with, and I feel truly blessed to get the opportunity to do so.

Looking ahead, we always look for new members in our performance troupes. It's never too early to start planning for the summer. In July, there will be 3 weeklong camps filled with music, dance and fun field trips. The first camp, for children entering Grades 1-6, will run July 12-16, with our performance on Friday, July 16 at 7:00 pm. The second camp, for children entering Grades 7 through college, will run July 19 - 23, with a performance on Saturday, July 24. This camp will be our traditional Dinner Theatre, dinner beginning at 6:00 pm (catered by my husband, Chef Scott) and our performance to follow. The final camp will run from July 26-30, and it is also for children entering Grades 7 through college. Names of the shows will be announced in the *March Messenger*. Read the *Messenger* each month for more details. As always, call me with questions at 203-230-8264 or send an e-mail to [joyann228@yahoo.com](mailto:joyann228@yahoo.com).

— Joy Weaver

# FEBRUARY 2010

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b> 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	<b>4</b> 12 noon Women's Group 5:15 pm — Spirit Choir 6:15 pm — Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Adult Ed Series	<b>5</b> 6:30 pm Acolyte Party	<b>6</b> 10:00 am Bauer Lecture Series, with walking tours at 1:00 pm (see page 1-2)
<b>7</b> 8:00, 9:15, 11:00 am Holy Eucharist "Souper Bowl" Fundraiser 2 pm Youth Group (see p.3) 8:00 pm Compline Service	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Holy Eucharist	<b>11</b> 12 noon Women's Group 5:15 pm — Spirit Choir 6:15 pm — Chancel Choir 7:00 pm Outreach Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:00 am Bauer Lecture Series, with walking tours at 1:00 pm (see page 1-2)
<b>14</b> 8:00, 9:15, 11:00 am Holy Eucharist No Church School 8:00 pm Compline Service	<b>15</b> Parish Office Closed	<b>16</b> 5:00 - 7:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper	<b>17</b> Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist at 12 noon & 7:00 pm	<b>18</b> 12 noon Women's Group 5:15 pm — Spirit Choir 6:15 pm — Chancel Choir	<b>19</b> Youth Services Opportunity Project in NYC (see page 3)	<b>20</b> 10:00 am Bauer Lecture Series, with walking tours at 1:00 pm (see page 1-2)
<b>21</b> 8:00, 9:15, 11:00 am Holy Eucharist  8:00 pm Compline	<b>22</b> 7:00 pm Vestry Meeting	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00 am Holy Eucharist  7:00 pm Lenten Adult Ed Series	<b>25</b> 12 noon Women's Group 5:15 pm — Spirit Choir 6:15 pm — Chancel Choir	<b>26</b> 7:00 pm H.O.M.E. Trip Meeting	<b>27</b> 10:00 am Bauer Lecture Series, with walking tours at 1:00 pm (see page 1-2)
<b>28</b> 8:00, 9:15, 11:00 am Holy Eucharist  8:00 pm Compline Service	<p>Check St. Andrew's weekly <b>eNews</b> for the most up-to-date announcements. To receive our <b>eNews</b>, go to — <a href="http://www.standrewsmadison.org">www.standrewsmadison.org</a> — and sign up on the home page.</p>					

## Religious Voices Speak Out

If you can access the Internet, you will find a New Year's greeting from The Rev. Sally Bingham, Canon for the Environment, Episcopal Cathedral of San Francisco, at [www.InterfaithPowerandLight.org](http://www.InterfaithPowerandLight.org), where she notes that, "We made some important advancements in our campaign for climate protection in 2009, and 2010 promises even more opportunities."

Check out her challenge to clergy and laity for Valentine's Day!

Canon Bingham is the author of *Love God, Heal Earth: 21 Leading Religious Voices Speak Out on Our Sacred Duty to Protect the Environment* (St. Lynn's Press; February 1, 2009). Her video concerning this book is available at the Interfaith Power and Light (IPL) web site by clicking on the "What's New" column, "CSPAN Book TV: Rev. Sally Bingham speaks on a religious response to global warming." The essays in her book are from clergy from all religions.

The IPL, of which The Rev. Bingham is the founder and president, interacts with over 4,000 congregations, mosques, and temples in regard to climate change.

— John Fuller

## Join us for some coffee, tea, and conversation

Whether you attend the 9:15 am or 11:00 am service on Sundays, please join us for refreshments downstairs in Farmer Hall between the services. We encourage those who go to the 11:00 service to come early and mingle with fellow parishioners.

In the ongoing effort to "Go Green," consider bringing your own mug from home for coffee hour! Just put your name on a label on the bottom of the mug, and bring it down to Farmer Hall when you hang up your coat. That will be one less paper cup in the landfill!

If you would like to volunteer to help with coffee hour, please sign up at church on Sundays, call 203-245-6729, or send an e-mail to Donna Johansen at [dmjarm@snet.net](mailto:dmjarm@snet.net).

— Donna Johansen

## *A Letter to the Congregation*

*My husband and I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the many members of St. Andrew's who helped us through our recent bout of illness. The ladies of Loaves and Fishes provided us with weeks of delectable food, even though the menu given them was very restrictive. Accompanying the food came the emotions of kindness and caring, two wonderful ingredients used in the preparation of our meals.*

*The many cards and notes sent to us expressing love, friendship, hope and good wishes helped to bolster and revive our sometimes flagging spirits.*

*Finally, how can we thank you for the many prayers said on behalf of our family? They helped us face surgery with certainty and confidence knowing that God was hearing our collective prayers and was sustaining us during this stressful time.*

*With grateful appreciation,  
Richard (Pete) and Jean Moore*

## **A Reflection on Holy Communion**

“Just as the bread is made out of many grains ground and mixed together, and out of the bodies of many grains there comes the body of one bread, in which each grain loses its form and body and takes upon itself the common body of the bread; and just as the drops of wine, in losing their own form, become the body of common wine and drink — so it is and should be with us, if we use this sacrament properly. Christ with all the saints, by his love, takes upon himself our form, fights with us against sin, death and all evil. This enkindles in us such love that we take on his form, rely upon his righteousness, life and blessedness. And through the interchange of his blessings and our misfortunes, we become one loaf, one bread, one body, one drink, and have all things in common.”

— Martin Luther,  
Sixteenth Century

## *To Our Friends & Family of St. Andrew's Church*

*We would like to take a moment and thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for the outpour of generosity shown over the past few weeks. On December 13, our house in Baltimore had a tragic fire which unfortunately resulted in a total loss. As you can imagine, we feel very fortunate to be alive and safe. Quick decision-making truly saved our lives. The way that the St. Andrew's congregation supported the children and grandchildren of one of their members really exemplifies why maintaining a tight-knit community means so much. With your help, our boys were able to open gifts on Christmas day. To see the smiles on their faces will forever go down as "The best Christmas" yet. Although the gifts purchased for each other were lost in the fire, we realized we still had the greatest gift there is — our family.*

*We recently rented a house and are beginning the difficult journey back to normalcy. We believe that staying positive during the rebuilding process can only bring us some good fortune. A few things we ask is that everyone check their smoke detectors to see that they are in working order, have a fire extinguisher in the house, and most importantly, create a fire escape plan with your family. Unfortunately, a lot of us take things for granted. After living through this ordeal, it is very obvious that fires are no joke.*

*We wish everyone a Happy, Healthy and prosperous New Year!*

*Please remember — hug your kids!*

*Peace and Love from the Gottlieb Family —  
Jerry, Sarah, Charlie & Oliver*

## *A Word of Thanks*

*Alan and I want to express to all of you wonderful people from St. Andrew's our deepest thanks for your extreme generosity and outpouring of support and love following our daughter's house fire.*

*Words cannot adequately convey how grateful we are. Thanks to all of you — Sarah, Jerry, Charlie and Oliver were able to find some joy during a very difficult time. Sarah shared with me that she felt so moved by the notes that were sent, that she has read them over and over again. I know the boys couldn't believe what a special Christmas they had thanks to your generosity.*

*Alan and I have been deeply touched by your loving care and support, we are so blessed to have such a special church family.*  
*Love, Susan Miller*

# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

232 Durham Road, Madison, Connecticut 06443  
Telephone: 203-245-2584 • Fax: 203-245-2601  
E-mail: [welcome@standrewsmadison.org](mailto:welcome@standrewsmadison.org)  
Web site: [www.standrewsmadison.org](http://www.standrewsmadison.org)  
Parish Hours: Monday - Friday 9 am - 4 pm

## The Parish Staff

Rector	Mary A. Canavan
Parish Administrator	Barbara Gibbons
Preschool Director	Leah Ann Portley
Director of Children's and Youth Ministry	Mary Merkle-Scotland
Organist & Chancel Choir Director	Paul Jordan
Director of Spirit Choir & Musicals	Joy Weaver
Guitarist	Jim Olden
Sexton	David Mikus

## The Parish Vestry

Senior Warden	Rob Card
Junior Warden	Matt Parthasarthy
Treasurer	Bill Downes
Clerk of the Vestry	Olivia Scaros

Charles Albright, Sandra Butler, Rich Fisler, Jenny Gerst, Geoff Gregory, Terry Sinclair, Martha Stewart, Robert Stimpson, Maggie Walden

**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](mailto:messenger@standrewsmadison.org). All articles may be edited for space, style, and content. Editor: Denise Forrest

## Choir Rehearsal Schedule

■ **Spirit Choir** — Thursday Rehearsal 5:15-6:15 pm  
Sunday Rehearsal at 8:30 am

This youth and adult choir 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.

■ **Chancel Choir** — Thursday Rehearsal 6:15-7:45 pm  
Sunday Rehearsal at 10:15 am

Open to all high school and adult singers, this choir sings each Sunday morning at the 11:00 am service during the school year. The Chancel Choir sings a wide variety of music — traditional literature, gospel, jazz, folk, and music of the great composers, including their Masterworks.



## THE MESSENGER

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
232 Durham Road  
Madison, Connecticut 06443

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