



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Parish Chimes

An Ancient Faith for a Modern World

DECEMBER 2024

Dear People of St. Andrew's,
By the time you are reading this edition of the Chimes, it will be Advent. In many ways, this is a peculiar period of the year. It is the time when the church is most out-of-sync with popular culture.



The music of the season is unusual, and the appointed scriptures sound nothing like the Hallmark version of December.

A few of my neighbors took down their Halloween decorations and immediately replaced them with Christmas lights. An LED Santa Claus has been waving at me when I take the dog out at all hours of the day or night for several weeks now. Holiday music was blaring through the speakers of a shopping center as I walked around wearing shorts. This "Christmas creep" will only intensify once Thanksgiving passes.

Railing against this phenomenon of our culture is likely useless. I acknowledge that the bustling commerce that will take place in the coming weeks is an important part of fueling our economy and promoting employment. Even I have changed one of the presets

on my car radio to the all-Christmas music station. After all, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

Still, there is value to our Advent observance. In a culture of excess, Advent instills a discipline of restraint. It is common to complain during December that we're over-programmed with parties, family commitments, and checklists to tackle. Advent reminds us to slow down.

The liturgy during this season will reflect the themes of restraint and reflection. The Kyrie will replace the more ebullient Gloria in excelsis. The response to the intercessions will be a period of silence. We will hear Scripture readings and sing songs about preparing for the coming of God.

I hope you will also find an opportunity to take a break from the holiday craziness in the coming weeks. I invite you to reflect where is God making an appearance in your life. Where is God calling you to go? Who is God calling you to be? Take an opportunity this Advent to stop, rest, and pray.

With thanksgiving for your partnership in the Gospel,
Matthew+

ADVENT

HOPE  PEACE  JOY  LOVE



MINISTRY NEWS



Senior Warden

Craig Gates

I love Christmas Carols. The radio starts playing secular Christmas songs before Thanksgiving (too early for me) to get us into the shopping mood but I prefer religious carols to get me in the spirit of the season. After all, St. Augustine said “he who sings prays twice”. Learning about the development of some of our favorite Christmas Carols can deepen our appreciation and help us connect with Christians who passed their faith on to us. Here is one example “Oh come, oh come Emmanuel”. Oh come, oh come sounds like a Gregorian chant and essentially it is. It is a paraphrase of the (Oh) antiphons, each one starting with the exclamation (Oh) that are chanted as part of the Liturgy of Hours as Christmas approaches. The lyrics of the carol go back to the 12th century or earlier, and the melody as far back as the 15th century. Interestingly though, the song is sung in many languages around the world and the same ancient melody is used everywhere. Once put into English that version has spread throughout the world. All this started with monks and is still surviving today.

CHRISTMAS means-

C-THE CHRIST CHILD that was born in Bethlehem

H-is the HEAVENLY Father who sent His for mortal man

R- means our REDEMPTION plan, this Christ Child’s birth did bring

I-INTERCESSION for our sins from Christ Our King

S-Says the brightest STAR that lead the Wise Men on their way

T-stands for this TREASURED babe God sent to us that day

M-proclaims the MEANING that this Christ Child’s birth conceived

A-means His ATTONEMENT, Grace, that saves those who believe

S-is God’s greatest SACRIFICE, His son’s life for you and me.

Glee and I wish you and your family, God’s blessings during this Holy Season.



Junior Warden

Roger Roy

Happy Thanksgiving everyone and I hope the coming holidays are good for everyone. This month the contract for the Chapel roof repair was signed but due to a backlog from the hurricanes our repair is put on hold for now. The repairs to the irrigation system are ongoing due to parts. We are shopping around for a replacement canvas sign for the Thrift shop, damaged by the wind and elements. Finally, the door to Coulton Hall has been replaced and working well.



Altar Guild

Glee Gates

How can it be that we are already in December? I remember my Daddy saying “the older you get the faster the time goes”! Of course as a child I didn’t get it but I think many of us feel that way now. Let’s slow down and enjoy the upcoming Advent season together as a church family.

During Advent, we often watch as the different candles are lit each week. There is a reading about their significance but sometimes we need a little reminder. There are five candles; three purple, one pink and the larger one in the center is white.

Week one of Advent, the candle of HOPE is lit. It is one of the purple candles. The next purple candle is PEACE. Week three, the JOY candle or sometimes referred to as the Shepherd’s Candle is lit. It is the pink candle. Week four we light the candle of LOVE. It is the final purple candle.

On week five, the white candle in the center of the wreath is lit. It is the CHRIST candle. It represents the life of Christ that has come into the world. The color white represents purity.

As we journey through the Advent season of preparation and anticipation that leads to the birth of Christ, let us generously give the gifts of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE and that fleeting thing we call time to all who are in need.

May God’s love surround you and your family with the hope that was born that holy night.



Pastoral Care

Janet Crisfield

The Pastoral Team wishes you a Happy New Church Year. Advent begins with us in quiet reflection contemplating God's great love for us by sending his son Jesus. The fact that he lives among us always is visible to us. At Christmas we fully realize this and celebrate his coming joyously and value his presence and comfort.

We also wish you a very Merry Christmas. At this time of transition it is important to remember we are a church family. The Pastoral Care Team is available to make visits to those of you that are in the hospital, long term care or homebound. If you, a family member or friend are in any of these circumstances please call the church office at 352-683-2010 and let us know. Facilities cannot share patient information if we call.

In addition please reach out to parishioners you know are in need of prayer and offer be with them or phone them. Your kindness and prayers are always heard by God and do not have to be formal or fancy. He knows what we mean and what we all need!

Again have a blessed and happy New Church Year and Christmas.



Angel Tree Ministry

It's that time again! By now, you have probably seen the Angel Tree in the Narthex adorned with Angels. Each Angel is labeled with a gift request. This year we will be showing some love to some folks residing in a nursing home that don't have any family, either close by or at all. We can share some hope and joy with them. Just take an Angel, shop

for the gift, attach the Angel to the gift and bring the gift to church unwrapped. There will be bins in the Narthex to receive them. If you prefer not to shop for a gift, you are welcome to put some cash in the box provided in the Narthex and someone else will do the shopping. Your gifts and/or cash donations need to be in the Narthex no later than Dec. 15th. The committee will need time to shop and organize the gifts to be ready to deliver them.

St. Andrew's parishioners have been so generous in the past with this Angel Tree Ministry and I'm looking forward to us being able to make many folks happy for their Christmas.

If you have any questions, please call me.

Patti Werner

Committee Chair



SNOWBALL GALA

5 PM - 8 PM

Friday December 6

*Appetizers
& finger-foods served
Music
Raffle*

Red, White and Blue Pot Luck

A big thank you to everyone that helped with setting up and clean up for the Red, White and Blue Pot Luck. It was very much appreciated.



PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEMBERS SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES AT HOME & OVERSEAS, AND THEIR FAMILIES:

- Julian Barry
- Bradley Meissner
- Michael Perry, USMC
- Brigadier General Karen Monday-Gresham

Please call the office with updates to this list.

TREASURER'S REPORT
as of September 30, 2024
Connie Mehr, Treasurer

	This Month	Year to Date	2024 Budget
Revenues			
Core Church	27,120.88	230,632.52	325,853.02
Thrift Shop	2,154.00	29,316.04	41,150.00
Total Revenues	29,274.88	259,948.56	367,003.02
Expenses			
Core Church	23,130.75	207,892.13	371,973.00
Thrift Shop	808.66	15,983.64	24,468.00
Total Expenses	23,939.41	223,875.77	396,441.00
Net Gain/Loss			
Core Church	3,990.13	22,740.39	(46,119.98)
Thrift Shop	1,345.34	13,332.40	16,682.00
Total	5,335.47	36,072.79	(29,437.98)
Investments			
SSGA	121,173.65	Bank Accounts Bank of America	
Alliance Bernstein	29,230.05	Unrestricted	91,237.48
		Restricted	313,383.96
		Truist	
		Unrestricted	122,777.91
Total	150,403.70	Total	527,399.35

NOVEMBER 2024

Transfers in: 1
 Weddings: 0
 Transfers out: 1
 Ann Lалlos 11/4/24
 Baptisms: 0
 Anointing: 31
 Deaths: 0
 Funerals: 1
 Richard Hanel 11/14/2024

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Mailing Address:
 P.O. Box 5026
 Spring Hill, FL 34611

Sunday Services
 8 am Service (no music)
 10:30 am Service (music)

Saturday Services
 4 pm Service

Parish Office Hours
 Mon, Tues, and Thurs.
 9 am – 12 pm
 (Closed Friday)

Diocese Website
www.episcopalswfl.org

The Parish Chimes Editor
 Lisa Collier
 Email:
 schurch22@tampabay.rr.com

ADVENT WORD SEARCH

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

good works

glory

heaven

forgiveness

heavenly father

holy spirit

world

Christmas



joy

peace

hope

love

advent

Jesus

light



- 12/02 Shirley Coomes
- 12/04 Danny Fernandez
- 12/05 Andre Lombardi
- 12/06 Dave Hamilton
- 12/07 John Follansbee
- 12/08 Bridie Klein
- 12/05 Steve Koepke
- 12/11 Lily Morris
- 12/16 Gregory McDougal
- 12/17 Harry Campbell
- 12/17 Gary Haas
- 12/18 Carole Drummond
- 12/18 Savannah Hutchinson
- 12/19 Zachary Meissner
- 12/20 John Sprecacener
- 12/21 Barbara Sulik
- 12/23 Margie Burton
- 12/23 Shirley Phillips
- 12/25 Dan McDermott
- 12/28 Dave Newman
- 12/28 Carolyn Small



DECEMBER LECTIONARY

Advent 1

Jeremiah 33:14-16
 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
 Luke 21:25-36
 Psalm 25:1-9

Advent 3

Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:7-18
 Canticle 9

Advent 2

Baruch 5:1-9
 Philippians 1:3-11
 Luke 3:1-6
 Canticle 16

Advent 4

Micah 5:2-5a
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)
 Canticle 15 (or 3) or Psalm 80:1-7



- 1 Rosamund & Maurice Stewart
- 9 Mervis & Fred Lewis
- 12 Laurine & James Smart
- 16 Kristina & Harold Hutchinson
- 19 Merope & Robby Noel
- 23 Helen and Jack Evans
- 23 John & BJ Spencer
- 24 Donna & Charles DeCosa
- 27 Liz & Dave Hamilton

NOVEMBER 2024 ATTENDANCE							
Week Ending Sat./Sun	Wed	Sat	Sat ONLINE	Sun 8 am	Sun 10:30 am	Sun ONLINE	Total
2/3	6	51	46	26	77	104	310
9/10	7	56	15	35	75	47	235
16/17	9	39	19	25	71	22	185
21/22	-	43	19	26	71	17	176
TOTAL	22	159	99	112	294	190	
AVERAGE	7	40	25	28	74	48	

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8 am Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II	2 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open 7 pm Boy Scouts (KH)	3 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open	4 10 am Healing Service 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open	5 9 am Backpacks 10 a.m. Women's Bible Study 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open	6 OFFICE CLOSED	7 10am - 2pm Thrift Shop 11 am - Children's Choir Rehearsal 1:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 3 pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal 4 pm Holy Eucharist II
8 8 am Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II	9 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open 7 pm Boy Scouts (KH)	10 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open	11 10 am Healing Service 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open	12 9 am Backpacks 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open	13 OFFICE CLOSED 9 am Men's Group Meeting (Chapel)	14 10am - 2pm Thrift Shop 10 am Daughters of the King Meeting 11 am - Children's Choir Rehearsal 4 pm Holy Eucharist II
15 8 am Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II	16 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open 7 pm Boy Scouts (KH)	17 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open	18 10 am Healing Service 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open	19 9 am Backpacks 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open	20 OFFICE CLOSED	21 10am - 2pm Thrift Shop 11 am - Children's Choir Rehearsal 1:30 pm Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal 3 pm Christmas Choir Rehearsal 4 pm Holy Eucharist II
22 8 am Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II	23 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open 7 pm Boy Scouts (KH)	24 6 pm Holy Eucharist II 8:30 pm Holy Eucharist II	25 11 am Holy Eucharist II	26 9 am Backpacks 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop Open	27 OFFICE CLOSED 9 am Men's	28 10am - 2pm Thrift Shop 4 pm Holy Eucharist II
29 8 am Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II	30 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop Open 7 pm Boy Scouts (KH)	31				