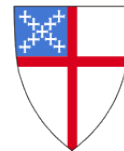


St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Parish Chimes



An Ancient Faith for a Modern World

December 2020



From the Rector

Dear Friends,

The season of Advent is once more at hand and with it the Christian New Year! For me, who became an Episcopalian relatively late in life, it was difficult to understand and to even see the point of the Christian new year and the Christian calendar altogether. The Christian New Year begins one month earlier than our society's New Year. Society's New Year comes in with all sorts of parties and noise and celebration; Advent comes in quietly and is pretty much unnoticed by the world. And not even all the Christians are aware of the Advent season. So why do we bother about it?

There is an important reason for us to remember and observe the Christian calendar year. The world has its own agenda of what is important and worth celebrating whereas Christians have a completely different perspective. We have an eternal perspective and our society has a secular and materialist perspective. We look beyond our earthly lifetimes and society looks to the here and now. Our Christian calendar starts with the expectation of the return of Christ. We need to develop this expectation don't we? The world's perspective is "Bing" Happy New Year; watch a big ball drop and then the next morning it is back to life as usual. But as Christians we are looking for Christ Jesus to return to earth. How will that affect me? How will that affect all of those around me? What will really happen when Jesus returns? And while it is true that most of us do not spend much time thinking about the return of Jesus, the fact is we all know that we ought to develop an expectation. We ought to have a desire for Jesus to return. It is during Advent season that we work on this. We work on adjusting our perspectives on life in Advent.

At Christmas time, we celebrate that Jesus Christ, God in human form, physically really did come into the world. We celebrate God's love for the world. At Epiphany we celebrate the revealing of the divinity of Jesus. During Lent we begin considering the cost of Jesus' death on the cross for us as payment for our sins. At Easter we celebrate his resurrection. At Pentecost we celebrate Jesus sending the Holy Spirit to His Church. At every season, you see, it is about Jesus in some way or another.

And this is why Advent and the rest of the Christian calendar are important. These seasons are important because they keep us always focused on the life of Jesus and keeping that

focus should continue to change our lives.

And speaking of changes this December at St. Andrew's will be different than any other one that we have had. The Covid virus has changed how we do things at church, at least for a while. So this December, Advent will be different for us. Usually in the December Chimes we publish the biographies of those who are running for vestry office. This year, there is no one running for office; the vestry will remain as is. At this point only a third of our congregation is attending church. As I told Michael Ludwell, our Senior Warden it doesn't seem right to choose from this small group at this time. I talked it over with Bishop Smith and he told me that if our current vestry is willing to continue that he would give permission for us to forgo the vestry elections temporarily because we are in such an unusual time. I checked with all our current vestry members and all are willing to continue to serve. So in six months we will revisit the issue. Otherwise we will just start again next December.

Also what will be different this December is that there will be no Bishop's visit. The Bishop is not visiting any churches during the pandemic. During his visit we usually bring in our new members which is not to say that there have not been new people who have joined us. There have, as a matter of fact, been eight new people who have transferred their memberships! The other ones who are not transferring from an Episcopal Church need to attend the Episcopal Traditions class per our church's membership rules.

And finally another difference will be in our Christmas services. Sadly, this Christmas there will be no caroling and no visit from St. Nicholas. We are planning to have our 6 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve service and then our Rite One Christmas Day service at 10 am. Jody will play Christmas songs during the prelude and after church but per the Bishop's guidelines we are not to sing so as not to spread the Covid virus; we can hum but not sing.

So this Advent will be different from any of our previous ones. But the most important element is still with us. Jesus is returning and we are looking forward to seeing Him again! O come, O come Emmanuel!

Warmly in Christ,

Fr. Lance

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Sr. Warden's Remarks

Mike Ludwell



This Christmas season I found a website from James Cooper that shares the background of many of the traditions with which we are so familiar. I thought it might be interesting to share a few of these. I hope you enjoy them. Holly - the prickly leaves represent the thorns that Jesus wore. Also, the berries symbolize the blood he shed for us. Poinsettias - these plants were first brought to the United States by John Poinsett, our first ambassador to Mexico in 1825. The legend goes that it was the only gift a child had to give to the baby Jesus at his birth. Christmas Cards - In 1843, Sir Henry Cole desired to increase the use of the postal service in England by the introduction of Christmas cards. These usually centered on a theme relating to the Nativity scene. Jesse Tree - This is a very old tradition dating back to medieval times. The name comes from Jesse who was the father of King David. This, of course, is part of the lineage of Jesus. If you would like to read the full article, it can be found at whychristmas.com On another note, for safety reasons, the thrift store continues to be closed for donations and sales. We'll try to keep you posted on any progress. The food pantry is currently donating contributions to families in need of immediate assistance. As always, the St. Andrew's community thanks you for your ongoing support. Wishing you a blessed Christmas.

Buildings & Grounds

Hal Smith



Welcome to the Holiday Season, Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas. Our church campus looks great and ready for all of us to enjoy. Our Groundskeeper does a remarkable job. Thanks, Steve! As you have seen, Steve is always looking for ways to beautify our grounds and always coming up with projects to keep our campus standing out in the community. He's constantly picking up debris. He always has a paint brush in

his hand to spot paint around the grounds. He is now undertaking the maintenance of Memorial Garden. As you can see, much of the work has already been done. Thanks to the hard work of Craig, Glee, Debbie, Diane, and Steve, the garden looks outstanding.

We have had some minor expenses over the last two months, but nothing major. We are constantly trying to keep our campus clean and fresh-looking for all the community to enjoy. Please let Bob Meissner or Hal Smith know if there are any areas upon which we may improve.

TREASURER'S TIDBITS

Connie Mehr



Dear Parishioners,

As we draw near to the end of a most trying year, I want to thank you for your consistent support. I know that there are still concerns as we move forward into 2021, but we must keep praying that God will see us through these difficult times.

There is still time to turn in your pledge card if you haven't already done so. I reiterate that having pledges helps the church build a more accurate budget, especially since non-pledge giving will be very difficult to estimate given that many people are still not attending church in person.

If you requested pledge envelopes, they will be in the Narthex for you to pick up the first weekend in January. If you cannot pick up your envelopes, please call the church office and request that your envelopes be mailed to you. Just a reminder—if you previously used envelopes but have opted not to get envelopes for next year, your “envelope” number will change. If you want to know your new number, please contact me at the church. If you know your “envelope” number, it helps us if you put your number on

your contribution checks.

In an effort to reduce postage costs, annual statements will not be mailed automatically. If you require an annual statement of giving for tax or other purposes, please contact the church to request that your statement be provided to you.

If you have any questions about anything in this article, please contact me at the church on Mondays or Thursdays when the church office is open. I hope everyone has a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy new year!

Ministry News

Altar Guild



Glee Gates,
Coordinator

Every month we talk about how fast the time goes and here we are in December. Think about last December and the plans we made for the New Year. Most of us missed out on plans for vacations, family visits, reunions, graduations and weddings just to name a few. Some of us lost loved ones and many of us have experienced isolation, loneliness and even anger. As we progress into the season of Advent, we have time to consider the past year and where we need to be spiritually as we move forward.

The Altar Guild has adorned the Altar with deep indigo to represent penitence for Advent and will change to white for Christmas as we look forward to and celebrate the birth of Christ. At this time, not all of our Altar Guild members can attend church, due to the threat of the Covid virus, but all members are in our thoughts and prayers to feel God's love, be safe and stay well. As a church family, whether you are alone or surrounded by loved ones we are only separated from each other by a phone call.

Although we have faced many unknowns this past year, the one constant was, and will be God's love for us. As we stay focused on our faith in Christ Jesus, let us enjoy the holidays and reach out and give what God has so unselfishly given us.

*Merry Christmas to our
entire church family!!*

From your Altar Guild



TREASURER'S REPORT

Connie Mehr, Treasurer

As of **October 31, 2020**

	This Month	Year to Date	2020 Budget
Revenues			
Core Church	20,158.74	273,548.09	351,900.00
Thrift Shop		18,371.69	45,350.00
Total Revenues	20,158.74	291,919.78	397,250.00
Expenses			
Core Church	20,687.43	266,281.32	376,834.45
Thrift Shop		12,660.08	20,415.55
Total Expenses	20,687.43	278,941.40	397,250.00
Net Gain/Loss			
Core Church	(528.69)	7,266.77	(24,934.45)
Thrift Shop		5,711.61	24,934.45
Total	(528.69)	12,978.38	
Investments		Bank Accounts	
SSGA	99,344.61	Sun Trust	
Alliance Bernstein	38,190.14	Unrestricted	(7,648.34)
		Restricted	165,214.54
		Discretionary	240.51
Total	137,534.75	Total	157,806.71

November 2020

Transfers in: 0

Transfers out: 1

Deaths: 0

Funerals: 0

Baptisms: 0

Weddings: 0

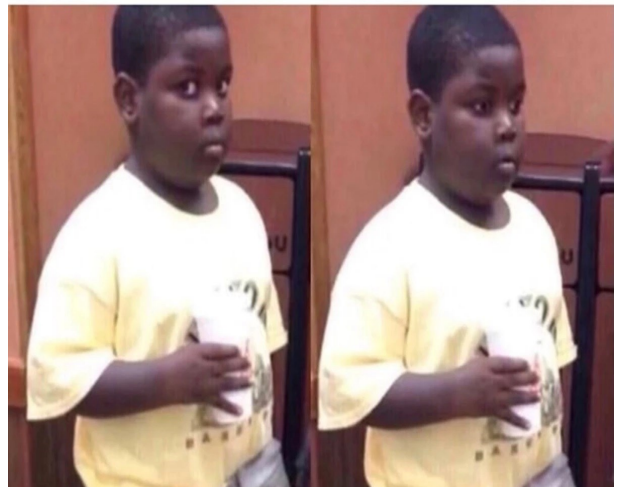
PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEN & WOMEN SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES AT HOME & OVERSEAS:

*Keith Barroncini, Julian Barry, Joseph Beatty,
Martin Clausen, Krista Crosetto, Jason Daniels,
Olivia Clair, Warren Fedoryk, Daniel Fitch,
Shawn Fitch, Howard Gidden, Sean Gilbert,
Dwayne Hamblin, Roger Handy, Doug Henderson,
Joseph Kee, Amy Kelly, Kristina Langley,
Skip LaPointe, Karen Monday-Gresham, Rhett Roy,
Tracy Thomas, Courtney Foster McCorvey,
Peter Turner, & Mary Turner.*

Please call the office with updates to this list.

People: There's NO WAY this decade could get any worse.

Christians who've read Revelation:



November Attendance

Week Ending Sat./Sunday	Other Srvces	Sat. 4 pm	Sunday 8 am	Sun-day 10:30 am	Total
Oct 31/Nov 1		38	18	57	113
November 7/8	*28	48	28	58	162
November 14/15		41	28	54	123
November 21/22		37	40	43	120
November 28/29	*30	35	34	52	151
Total	*58	199	148	264	669
Average	29	40	30	53	134

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

2301 Deltona Blvd.
Spring Hill, FL 34606
Phone: 352-683-2010

E-mail:
schurch22@tampabay.rr.com
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5026
Spring Hill, FL 34611

The Rev. Lance Wallace, Rector
Cell 352-515-8657
Email: Fr.Lwallace@gmail.com

Sunday Services

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

Saturday Services

4 pm Service (no music)

Thursday Bible Class

(available via Zoom)

Parish Office Hours

Mon. & Thurs. 9 am – 12 pm
(Closed Friday)

Diocese Website

www.episcopalswfl.org

The Parish Chimes Editors

Lisa Emerson & Debbie Smith
Email:
schurch22@tampabay.rr.com

Please call or email
the office
with any changes
to your contact information.

We're on the web!
standrewschurchsh.org
Like us on Facebook at
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



2 Shirley Coomes	8 Bridie Klein	18 Fr. Lance Wallace
2 Diane Wallace	10 Aiden Lewis	19 Zachery Meissner
4 Diane Casey	11 Mark Lillpopp	20 John Spreccacener
4 Danny Fernandez	13 Joyce Bartholomew	23 Margie Burton
6 Deven Carlsen	16 Gregory McDougal	23 Shirley Phillips
6 Dave Hamilton	17 Harry Campbell	27 Mary Ann Arnold
6 David Lightburn	17 Gary Haas	27 Tommy Collins
6 Karen Walrath	18 Carol Drummond	28 Dave Newman
7 John Follansbee	18 Savannah Hutchinson	28 Carolyn Small

This holiday, make a
difference while you shop

Shop for holiday gifts and supplies at
smile.amazon.com and Amazon donates

You shop. Amazon donates.
amazon smile



1 Rosamund & Maurice Stewart	19 Merope & Robby Noel
9 Mervis & Fred Lewis	24 Donna & Charles DeCosa
12 Laurine & James Smart	27 Liz & Dave Hamilton
16 Kristina & Harold Hutchinson	29 Barbara & Calvin Ingram