



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Parish Chimes

An Ancient Faith for a Modern World

DECEMBER 2023

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 see the point of the Christian new year and the Christian calendar altogether. The Christian New Year is just one month's difference than our society's New Year. The 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 bother about the Christian calendar; I was raised a Baptist and never knew about Advent or any of the Christian seasons. So why do we bother about it?

I believe that 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 agenda. We have an eternal perspective and our society has a secular and materialist perspective. We look beyond our lives and society looks to the here and now. Our Christian calendar starts us off remembering that Jesus is coming back. This is an event we need to be reminded about, don't we? It is not something that just is, like "Bing" Happy New Year, watch a big ball drop down and then tomorrow morning it is back to work like usual. No, we need to consider what it will mean to us and to our family and to the world around us when Christ Jesus returns to earth. How will that affect me? How will that affect all of those around me? And honestly, most of us do not

spend much time thinking about the return of Jesus. But we need to develop an expectation, a desire for Jesus to return. And conveniently enough during Advent season we work on just that. We work on adjusting our life perspectives so that we make sure we are prepared to meet our Lord, in both heart and mind.

At Christmas, we celebrate that Jesus really did come into the world years ago. We celebrate God's love for the world. Then 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 and our own dedication to him. At Easter we celebrate his glorious resurrection and defeat of death. At Pentecost we celebrate Jesus sending the Holy Spirit to His Church. At every season, you will note, it is about Jesus in some way or fashion. Christianity is all about Jesus.

And this is why Advent and the rest of the Christian calendar are important. They are important because they keep us always focused on Jesus, on his life, and how that should be affecting our lives.

So Happy New Year! May you have a joyous Advent season and as you reflect on the coming of Christ, may He fill you with his Love and Peace!

Warmly in Christ,

Please keep us informed if you, a family member, or church member you know goes into the hospital. Hospitals no longer keep lists that can be checked at the front desk. If you do not let the office or Fr. Lance know, we are not able to visit.

You can call the office at 352-683-2010 or Fr. Lance's cell phone 352-515-8657.

Junior Warden

Roger Roy

I hope everyone had a happy Thanksgiving. As we enter the final month of Father Lance's time with us, someone we will surely miss, there is still work to be done on campus. This month, the Hernando County Fire Rescue Department came for a surprise inspection. They found our hydrants needed to be reinspected, flushed and tagged. Also, they found 4 emergency exit lights not working right. The hydrant is tagged and the lights were replaced. There were numerous tree limbs that needed to be trimmed so that fire trucks could gain access to the buildings in case of an emergency. The pest control people were here to spray for termites as per our bi-monthly contract. There were two flag poles in the Memorial Garden that needed to be recemented and that project is being handled right now. The display cabinet in the Chapel has been re-stained and polyurethane applied. Enjoy the holidays coming up, hope to see you in church.

Altar Guild,

Glee Gates & Patti Werner; Co-directors

The Altar Guild is an essential lay ministry that plays the lead role in preparing and setting up the items used in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist (Communion), the sacrament of Baptism, and other pastoral offices such as Holy Matrimony and Burial of the Dead. Members of the guild serve the church under the direction of the Rector, and are charged with maintaining the sacred vessels, linens and vestments, and keeping a ready inventory of candles, wine, and wafers for use in our worship services. The Altar Guild Ministry provides a framework for each of its members to experience a truly personal connection with God while preparing the Altar and caring for the sacred items we use throughout the year. The time commitment to Altar Guild, as a member of one of the

three teams currently active is approximately 1 to 2 hours total over the week your team is on duty. Each team serves every 3rd week and after each service they attend. During Advent, Christmas, Lent and Holy Week we are the busiest and the most rewarded with many special services requiring our unique and devout support.

No special gifts or talents are necessary to serve on Altar Guild except to love the Lord. We ask that you have a true, heartfelt desire to serve God in a thoughtful, committed and meaningful role "behind the scenes". We invite you to join our Altar Guild ministry by contacting Glee Gates, Patti Werner or the church office.

May God's love surround you and your family this Holiday Season.

Blessings and thanks to all who serve.

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 to 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.

Rector Search Program Update

Craig Gates

The CAT assessment of the church is complete and your feedback has been vital to the process of selecting the best suited Rector for our church. Thank you to all who completed the survey.

On December 10, 2023 the results will be presented to the Vestry and committee members. The next step will be to analyze the data and present the results to the Diocese and congregation at a later date.

We have begun preliminary work on the Parish Profile. This profile is a comprehensive document that reviews our church's community, geography, history, facilities, community resources and a description of the area that would be of interest to potential candidates.

The Office for Transition Ministry (OTM) portfolio is nearly completed. This information will eventually be posted on the OTM website with our parish profile so interested clergy candidates can access and apply for the Rector position. The portfolio advertises the position providing details which include: average attendance, compensation package and our past rectors. It also includes a series of written narratives which describe our liturgical style, stewardship, pastoral care and involvement in the wider community.

It is still our goal to go live with our rector search by early January, over two months earlier than the Diocese predicted.

In early December, The Vestry will be accepting applications for our Pastor Search Committee. The Diocese requires and provides an application form which describes the expectations and responsibilities required of each search committee members. The requirements and responsibilities are on the following page.

SEARCH COMMITTEE INFORMATION

Anyone interested in serving on the Search Committee is encouraged to apply by giving a completed application to the Senior Warden, Craig Gates, Janet Crisfield or dropping it off in the church office. The applications will be available in the Narthex beginning 12/2/23. The deadline for submitting an application is December 22, 2023.

Applications will be kept confidential. They will be reviewed by the Wardens and Vestry. Members will be selected to give the Committee a balanced representation of the congregation and a diverse range of skills. If you have any questions about the application process, or the Search Process in general, please feel free to contact Janet Crisfield or Craig Gates

Please be assured that whether you serve on the Search Committee, on the Transition Team, or in some other way, your participation and input during the process is welcome and needed. We are actively interested in what you have to say, and we want to hear from you. Our goal is to keep all lines of communication open, and to be as transparent as possible.

EXPECTATIONS of Selected Search Committee Members

Communicant in good standing. (attend church regularly, giver of record, giver of time and talent).

Spiritually sound person of prayer.

Good organizational and communication skills (checks and responds to emails and phone calls quickly).

Willing to commit time necessary to engage in the Search Committee's work.

Comfortable with the work of assessment.

Team player willing to work for the good of the whole church.

Comfortable working collaboratively, and under the leadership of the elected Chair.

Is regularly involved in and familiar with various church activities.

Can make decisions about candidates without discrimination based on race, color or sex; understands the scope of the position of Rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.



REQUIREMENTS of Search Committee Members

Must commit to attending regular meetings, following through on tasks in timely manner, and serving for the full duration of the search process. The Search Committee will meet (via Zoom, or in person as needed), and may work both as an entire team as well as in small groups.

Must be able to maintain confidentiality about the details of the search and assessment (even from one's spouse or domestic partner), and to secure all search correspondence in confidential files that will be erased/shredded at the end of the Search Committee's work. A separate email from other family members is a must, as well as a personal cell phone # to receive private texts.

Must be able to access and review all application materials of candidates approved by the Bishop and be able to assess the candidates.

Must be able to communicate clearly and cordially.

Perform personal reference checks as directed.

Review social media of candidates and their congregation as directed.

Conduct virtual interviews of candidates if and as directed.

Begin initial assessments and narrowing the candidate pool as a group.

Good at listening to others and considering opinions and agendas that differ from one's own. Must be able to work collaboratively.

Maintain communication with Vestry and Parish.

Present names of three finalists to the Vestry.

Termination of the Search Committee

The Search Committee's work is completed upon presentation of the names of the finalists to the Vestry.

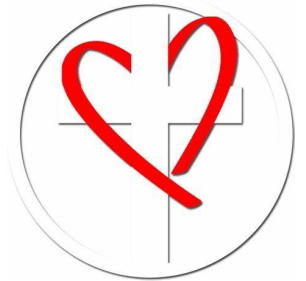
Thank you!
AND FAREWELL

Join us
Sunday, December 31, 2023 at noon
for a **Farewell Fellowship Hour** for
Father Lance & Diane

I AM GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR MY EPISCOPAL CHURCH BECAUSE . . .

A few gratitude cards were posted in the narthex during Stewardship Month. Here is why some people are grateful for the church. Perhaps you can identify with some of them.

- The close association with the congregation to share in our effort for spiritual growth. The scholarly guidance provided for deeper understanding of scripture.
- It provides spiritual growth and fellowship.
- For my renewed faith!
- It's a place where my soul can be still and at ease.
- I have experienced many ups and downs in my life so far. I am thankful that the Lord is still watching over me every day. To help me become a better person as I grow older.
- It is a welcoming, generous, faith-filled community of believers, open and accepting to all.
- It has given me purpose through its various ministries and has helped me have a better understanding of Jesus's teachings.
- Love, friendship and kindness.
- Our word of God is well-lived here; church family.
- The keeping of traditions from my childhood without too many variations.
- The support I've received during my sorrow and hospital stays.
- It is a place where Jesus Christ abides.
- The wonderful people; the knowledge I have learned from the liturgical moments and adult formation.
- It has brought me closer to God and God's people. Our church family are loving, caring people.
- God led me here 16 years ago.
- For God's guidance and many blessings He has given me.
- The fellowship I feel within the church. I feel a closeness to my Father, my Lord, my Abba!
- We have the best church family/community.
- It has always been a place that I have never felt alone. In almost 30 years I've attended, St. Andrew's people shared my happy moments as well as days of tears. We are a family!
- As a born Episcopalian, the church service is so familiar and similar to the Episcopal churches that I have attended in my life—Rite I, Rite II, weddings, funerals, gatherings—the sense of continuity.
- My place for a tune-up, batteries charged, minor adjustments, and fill the tank.
- Going to this church every Sunday keeps me learning, growing & staying closer to God.





We have been having a great time rehearsing for Christmas Eve. We've welcomed back some friends from last Christmas as well as new singers. It is truly a blessing to share our love of music and St. Andrew's with each other dur-

ing this most wonderful time of the year.

Please mark your calendars: Easter being early in 2024, Easter Choir rehearsals will begin on Sat. Feb. 17 at 3 pm,

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Fr. Lance for his support of our Music Ministry throughout his tenure at St. Andrew's. His prayerful guidance helped us to focus our musical offerings and kept us in the nearer presence of our Lord as we practiced and sang together. We wish him and Diane much peace and harmony as they begin the next chapter in their journey.

See you in church! Jody Bowes, Director of Music



Helpful information for those looking for Christian senior living facilities:

(Type the following address into your internet browser or click the button below:)

[Caring.com](https://www.caring.com)

Troop 433 Guiding Principles

Happy Advent. The Church begins a new liturgical year starting Sunday, December 3. The next four weeks we will celebrate each Sunday with a different theme to guide us through this season. The themes are *Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love*. I like to think that the four themes become the guiding principles for the following Sundays of the new year. Which brings me to the subject of this article, namely guiding principles.



through the Scout Oath and Law. The Scout oath says, *on my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight*. The Scout Law has 12 points. A scout is *trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent*. Each is a goal for a Scout to try to live up to every day.

We live our lives through guiding principles. The church's foundational guiding principles are the Biblical principles we commonly refer to as the Ten Commandments. Another Biblical principle we often quote is what we call the Golden Rule.

We even have national guiding principles that can be found in the Bill of Rights and The Constitution.

Out of these guiding principles individuals should establish their own set to use in their life. For example, in establishing my own set I incorporated into mine *that I would never ask someone to do something that I, myself was not willing to do*. It is not an original thought, but one I learned from my parents and other people I have worked with over the years.

The wonderful objective of scouting is that it helps youth to establish their own set of guiding principles

A few weeks ago, I received a letter from the Greater Tampa Bay Area Boy Scout Council thanking me for my donation to scouting. The second paragraph of the letter began with the question, *Why Scouting?* And it listed six essential needs in growing today's society through the scouting program: *Mentoring, Lifelong learning, Faith traditions, Serving others, Healthy Living, and Building character*.

I believe the scouting program that Father Murray began in 1988 at St. Andrew's to be a part of the community youth outreach ministry of the church has and continues to assist youth, in those six essential needs, to live a life based upon guiding principles that have/are giving them a purpose in life. As we begin a new year, both liturgical and physical, may we revisit our guiding principles through the advent themes.

Happy Advent!

Yours in Scouting, Larry Edmonds

TREASURER'S REPORT

as of October 31, 2023

Connie Mehr, Treasurer

| | This Month | Year to Date | 2023 Budget |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Revenues | | | |
| Core Church | 27,190.25 | 334,884.86 | 364,626.00 |
| Thrift Shop | 3,683.28 | 34,810.12 | 35,250.00 |
| Total Revenues | 30,873.53 | 369,694.98 | 399,876.00 |
| Expenses | | | |
| Core Church | 31,158.91 | 299,650.36 | 377,352.00 |
| Thrift Shop | 2,194.07 | 17,972.01 | 22,524.00 |
| Total Expenses | 33,352.98 | 317,622.37 | 399,876.00 |
| Net Gain/Loss | | | |
| Core Church | (3,968.66) | 35,234.50 | (12,726.00) |
| Thrift Shop | 1,489.21 | 16,838.11 | 12,726.00 |
| Total | (2,479.45) | 52,072.61 | - |
| Investments | | | |
| SSGA | 95,814.09 | | |
| Alliance Bernstein | 25,988.47 | | |
| Commonwealth | 28,434.24 | | |
| Total | 150,236.80 | | |
| Bank Accounts | | | |
| | | Bank of America | |
| | | Unrestricted | 61,141.24 |
| | | Restricted | 403,259.35 |
| | | Discretionary | 1,117.92 |
| Total | | Total | 465,518.51 |

NOVEMBER 2023

Transfers in: 0

Weddings: 0

Transfers out: 0

Baptisms: 1

Cillian Grant 11/12/23

Anointing: 60

Deaths: 0

Funerals: 3

Mark T. Griffin III 11/11/23

Dennis Andrews 11/21/23

Jimmy Klein 11/30/23

| NOVEMBER 2023 ATTENDANCE | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| Week Ending Sat./Sun | Wed | Sat | Sat ONLINE | Sun 8 am | Sun 10:30 am | Sun ONLINE | Total |
| 4/5 | 7 | 50 | 16 | 39 | 76 | 53 | 241 |
| 11/12 | 8 | 53 | 12 | 49 | 81 | 41 | 244 |
| 18/19 | 10 | 52 | 14 | 38 | 79 | 57 | 250 |
| Thanksgiving | 32 | - | - | - | - | - | 32 |
| 25/26 | - | 38 | 10 | 40 | 70 | 43 | 201 |
| TOTAL | 57 | 193 | 52 | 166 | 306 | 194 | |
| AVERAGE | 14 | 48 | 13 | 41.5 | 77 | 49 | |

**DECEMBER
LECTIONARY**

ADVENT 1

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

ADVENT 2

Isaiah 40:1-11
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
2 Peter 3:8-15a
Mark 1:1-8

ADVENT 3

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
Psalm 126 or Canticle 15 (or 3)
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
John 1:6-8,19-28

ADVENT 4

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
Canticle 3 or Canticle 15
or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26
Romans 16:25-27
Luke 1:26-38

**1st SUNDAY AFTER
CHRISTMAS**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3
Psalm 147 or 147:13-21
Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
John 1:1-18

DECEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 12/02 Shirley Coomes | 12/18 Carole Drummond |
| 12/02 Diane Wallace | 12/18 Savannah Hutchinson |
| 12/04 Diane Casey | 12/18 The Rev. Lance Wallace |
| 12/04 Danny Fernandez | 12/19 Zachary Meissner |
| 12/05 Andre Lombardi | 12/20 John Spreccacenero |
| 12/06 Deven Carlsen | 12/20 Karen Visnaw |
| 12/06 Dave Hamilton | 12/21 Barbara Sulik |
| 12/06 David Lightburn | 12/22 Barbara Brown |
| 12/06 Karen Walrath | 12/23 Margie Burton |
| 12/07 John Follansbee | 12/23 Shirley Phillips |
| 12/08 Bridie Klein | 12/25 Dan McDermott |
| 12/10 Aiden Lewis | 12/27 Mary Ann Arnold |
| 12/11 Mark Lillpopp-Strzelczyk | 12/28 Dave Newman |
| 12/13 Joyce Bartholomew | 12/28 Carolyn Small |
| 12/15 Angelica de Gaspe' Beaubien | 12/29 Anthony Dunbar |
| 12/16 Gregory McDougal | 12/31 Joyce Bartholomew |
| 12/17 Harry Campbell | |
| 12/17 Gary Haas | |

ANNIVERSARIES

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
 24 Donna & Charles DeCosa
 27 Liz & Dave Hamilton
 29 Barbara & Calvin Ingram

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

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



**PLEASE PRAY FOR
 OUR MEMBERS
 SERVING IN THE
 ARMED FORCES
 AT HOME & OVERSEAS:**

**Julian Barry
 Jason Hobson
 Joseph Edmonds
 Bradley Meissner,
 Michael Perry, USMC
 Brigadier General Karen Monday-Gresham**

Please call the office with updates to this list.

December

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| 3 8 am Holy Eucharist II 9:15 Adult Formation 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II | 4 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop 7 pm Boy Scouts (KH) | 5 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop | 6 10 am Healing Service 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop | 7 9 am Backpacks 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop | 8 9 am Men's Group Meeting OFFICE CLOSED | 9 10am - 2pm Thrift Shop 11 am Children's Christmas Choir 2 pm Sanctuary Choir 3 pm Christmas Choir 4 pm Holy Eucharist II 5:15 pm Adult Formation |
| 10 8 am Holy Eucharist II 9:15 Adult Formation 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II | 11 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop 7 pm Boy Scouts (KH) | 12 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop | 13 10 am Healing Service 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop | 14 9 am Backpacks 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop | 15 OFFICE CLOSED | 16 10am - 2pm Thrift Shop 11 am Children's Christmas Choir 12 pm Choir Luncheon 2 pm Sanctuary Choir 3 pm Christmas Choir 4 pm Holy Eucharist II 5:15 pm Adult Formation |
| 17 8 am Holy Eucharist II 9:15 Adult Formation 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II | 18 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop 7 pm Boy Scouts (KH) | 19 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop | 20 10 am Healing Service 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop CHIMES ARTICLES DUE | 21 9 am Backpacks KH 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop | 22 9 am Men's Group Meeting OFFICE CLOSED | 23 10am - 2pm Thrift Shop 11 am Children's Christmas Choir 2 pm Sanctuary Choir 3 pm Christmas Choir 4 pm Holy Eucharist II 5:15 pm Adult Formation |
| 24 8 am Holy Eucharist II 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II 5:30 Caroling 6 pm Holy Eucharist II 8:30 Caroling 9 pm Holy Eucharist II | 25 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop 7 pm Boy Scouts (KH) | 26 10 am - 2 pm Thrift Shop | 27 10 am Healing Service 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop | 28 9 am Backpacks 10 am - 2pm Thrift Shop 6 pm Choir Rehearsal | 29 OFFICE CLOSED | 30 10am - 2pm Thrift Shop 2 pm Sanctuary Choir 3 pm Christmas Choir 4 pm Holy Eucharist II |
| 31 8 am Holy Eucharist II 9:15 Adult Formation 10:30 am Holy Eucharist II 12 pm Farewell Dinner | | | | | | |