



ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St. Andrew's in the Pines Episcopal Church
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January 2009

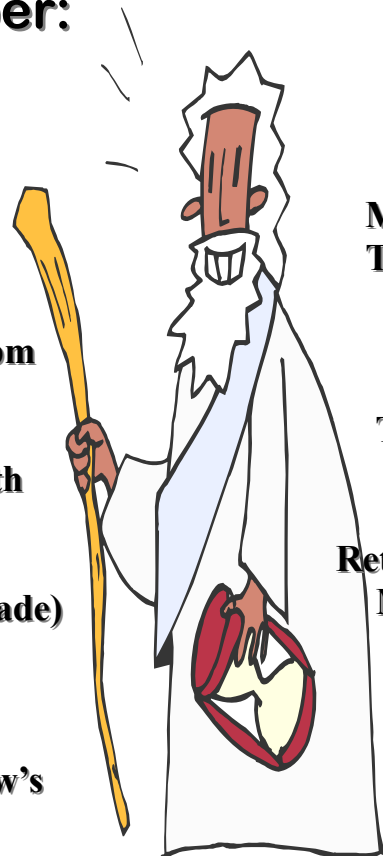


Dates to Remember:

Vestry Meeting
Jan. 12th at 7:00 pm
St. Andrew's

**Safeguarding God's
Children Training**
Jan. 14th at 5:15 to 8:15 pm
St. Andrew's

Jan. 7th, 14th, 21st, & 28th
Wednesday School
3:00 to 5:00 pm
Youth Group (6th - 12th Grade)
7:00 to 8:00 pm
Adult Christian Ed.
5:45 to 6:45 pm
All take place at St. Andrew's



Music Selection Group
Thursdays at 11:00 am
St. Andrew's

Prayer Group
Tuesdays at 12:00 pm
St. Andrew's

Retirement Center Service
Mondays at 10:30 am

A Voice in the Wilderness



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January 2009

The Rector's Remarks Wes Shields



I want to take a moment to thank each of you for another great year. You all have worked hard and I believe that the fruits of your labor can be seen throughout our church family. I am thankful to each and every one of you who work to make this church family what it is. That leads me into what I want to talk about.

Generosity is a powerful gift. The Bible encourages us time and time again to have a generous heart and to give freely to others out of what has been given freely to us. This is the essence of being grateful to the Lord. This is an area where I see St. Andrew's doing a lot of good work. Everyone from the Vestry to our youth give of their time and money to help make our community stronger. This is all wonderful, but I want to us to think for just a minute about the idea of generosity in our spiritual lives.

I believe that having a generous spirit means more than simply doing good work in our community, even though that is an important piece of the puzzle. Having a generous spirit means giving freely of everything we have to others. Let me explain. It's one thing to commit time or money to a cause; it's a whole other thing to be patient, loving, and forgiving to another human being. Giving of ourselves to an organization that we support is usually very satisfying. That's why people get involved, but having a generous spirit, that is freely giving to others the love, compassion, and forgiveness that has been freely given to us often feels like work. It can be very difficult to forgive someone who has hurt you because that means that you have to let go of the hurt. It means that we have to swallow our own pride, our own self righteousness, and say to another person that we are no longer mad at them and even worse, we have to say that we love them and forgive them. That's not easy.

Often times society tells us that it is better to simply push that hurt aside and move on with life. There is no need to rock the boat, but I have seen in my own life, and in the lives of many of the people that I talk with, that you can't simply put hurt aside. Maybe you can for a little while, but sooner or later, it's going to come out and it usually comes out at an inappropriate time with someone who did nothing to deserve our anger. That's the pattern that I have seen in the world around me, but God is calling us to something better.

Possessing a spirit of generosity means longing, not to shove our hurt into some dark corner of

(Continued on page 2)

A Voice in the Wilderness

Rector's Remarks (cont.), Wes Sheilds

our soul, but rather to shine God's holy light on the problem. It means longing to forgive those who harm us because we have been forgiven. Possessing a generous spirit also means that we must allow room for others who have different ideas and opinions from our own. We don't have to agree, but we must be loving. We must set aside our own need to be right and insert our need to love.

If we can learn to have a generous spirit, to be the person God is calling us to be, not only will we be a better person to those around us, but we'll be much happier ourselves. Can you imagine the sense of freedom that would come with letting go of the anger and hurt that we carry around in our lives. Can you imagine the freedom that would come with not always having to be right, but simply loving and respecting others regardless of how whether we agree or disagree with them.

This is always how it works. If we do God's will, it not only offers peace and love to those around us, but we also give ourselves an opportunity to experience those same gifts. If you want to make this a part of your life then here are a few simple suggestions. Write down the questions; Am I being a generous person today? Have I forgiven those who have hurt me? Am I loving my neighbor as myself? Put this piece of paper on your mirror or somewhere that you will see it everyday. If you will ask yourself these questions everyday, I promise you will begin to see a change in your life and the way you are dealing with the world around you. Take the time to make generosity a part of your life.

SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN

St. Andrew's will be holding a training session in January for everyone who works with the children of our congregation. Sharon will be teaching the course called "Safeguarding God's Children." If you currently work with or are thinking about volunteering next year with our Nursery, Wednesday School, or Youth Group, you should plan on attending this training session.

**JANUARY
14, 2009
5:15-8:15
PM**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT ELIZABETH @ 367-4261.

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO MAKE THIS TRAINING DATE BUT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING A SECOND SESSION, PLEASE LET ELIZABETH KNOW SO A SECOND "MAKE-UP" DATE CAN POSSIBLY BE SCHEDULED.

A Voice in the Wilderness

Christian Education, Elizabeth Miller

ADULT CHRISTIAN ED

We will be beginning a new study on the book of Matthew. If you have thought about joining us but haven't, try something new! We meet every Wednesday from 5:45-6:45 pm at church. The lessons are short reads with discussion questions that follow. Come give us a try this week! You may find you really like it!

WEDNESDAY SCHOOL!

Thank you so much to Katie McClure for organizing the 2008 addition of our Christmas Pageant. The kids spent a lot of time in November and December getting ready and were excited to perform on the 21st.



A Voice in the Wilderness

December Vestry Minutes, Lora Grinestaff

Vestry Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2008

Members and Visitors Present: Wes Shields, Donna Skinner, Katie McClure, Norm Pape, Jon Boroff, Barbara Wise, Sarah Hixson and Lora Grinestaff.

Opening of meeting: The meeting opened with Donna Skinner reading a paragraph about our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Treasurer's Report: Wes Shields gave the current treasurer's report. A motion was made by Jon Boroff and seconded by Donna Skinner to accept the report. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes of Last Meeting: The minutes of the November 10, 2008 meeting were approved in a motion made by Katie McClure and seconded by Jon Boroff with a correction noted that the name Bob Tanner be corrected to read Dick Tanner. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Computer: Wes Shields reported that one computer in the church office has crashed and is being worked on and hopefully will be up and running soon.

Church Directory: He also reported that the church directory is in the process of being updated with current pictures and data needed to accomplish this task.

Assist Families: The sheriff's department has contacted St. Andrew's stating there are families in town needing assistance during this Christmas season. A description of the needs of two families was noted and a motion was made by Barbara Wise, seconded by Norman Pape to assist these families. Motion carried unanimously. Members present stated they would pick up clothing items and gifts cards for these families to be presented no later than December 16th to the Sheriff's department.

Van Licensed: Wes Shields noted that the donated van is working well but there are a few things that need to be worked on. He asked if the van should be licensed at this time. A motion was made by Norman Pape and seconded by Barbara Wise to license the van. Motion carried unanimously.

2009 Preliminary Operating Budget: The 2009 Preliminary Operating Budget was discussed per line item and various questions were asked. A motion was made by Jon Boroff and seconded by Barbara Wise to reduce certain line items in order to make payment on the mortgage during the 2009 fiscal year. The motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Katie McClure and seconded by Jon Boroff to accept the 2009 Preliminary Operating Budget with the noted changes. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business:

Deacon: Gail Randall has expressed a desire to start the process to become a deacon. The members of the vestry were unanimous in their approval and will support her in this endeavor.

Convention - Mustard Seed: A brief discussion was held concerning this matter. Possibly at the annual meeting in January some long term objectives can be developed.

Open Discussion:

It was noted that the temperature in the church upstairs can be very uncomfortable at times. Jon Boroff stated he would check on this in the near future.

Adjournment: The meeting closed with the group praying the Lord's Prayer. Time: 8:55 p.m

Respectfully submitted,
Lora Grinestaff, Secretary

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	5 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	6 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	7	8	9	10
11 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am Vestry Mtg. 7:00 pm	12 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am Vestry Mtg. 7:00 pm	13 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	14 Safeguarding God's Children 5:15 pm	15 Wednesday School 3:15 pm Adult Christian Ed 5:45 pm Middle/High Youth 7:00 pm		17
18	19 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	20 Prayer Hour 12-1:00 pm	21		23	24
25	26 Retirement Center Service 10:30 am	27 Prayer Hour 12-1:00pm	28	29	30	31

JANUARY 2009

A Voice in the Wilderness

Altar Guild, Mary Lankford

It is sign-up time for the 2009 Altar Guild year. Please consider volunteering for this worthwhile ministry!!! The signup folder is in the Narthex. This is for all current members AND anyone who would like to join. We are in need of more people to help with this meaningful ministry. It takes a little time and is very rewarding. We will be having an organizational meeting in January for training and scheduling. Any questions, call Mary Lankford at 367-4820.



Donation of Poinsettias



Thank You to everyone for the donations for the Poinsettias.

A Voice in the Wilderness

Music Notes, Coralee Petersen

MUSIC NOTES

I am always sad when Christmas is leaving - of course it isn't really, not yet. As I write this, it is January 1, the 8th day of Christmas. Eight maids a'milking today, and 9 ladies dancing, 10 lords a'leaping, 11 pipers piping, and 12 drummers drumming yet to go!

There are many thanks to give to folks who helped with music for our Christmas services: to Katie McClure for her help with the music for the kids' pageant; to Hattie McKay for playing for the early service Christmas Eve; to Mariah McKay for singing a solo at the late service Christmas Eve; to Fred Petersen for playing his cello at the late service; and to all the choir members who sang: Lara Grinestaff, Katherine Bennett, Betty Golden, Ann Stephens, Marilyn Huffman, Madeleine Murdock, Barbara Wise, and Fred Petersen. We were missing Jeanne Raney and Gail Randall who are very faithful choir singers; they were with us all thru Advent, but went to visit family for Christmas.



So now we look to Epiphany, and music that reminds us of Christ's light coming to all the world. We offer the prayer that closed our Prayers of the People last Sunday: (slightly amended)

Creator God, who said. "Let there be light", may our music, help us to spread the light of your love throughout the world.
Amen.

Coralee Petersen