

The Net

St. Andrew's Anglican Church

January 22, 2012

Annual meeting Feb. 26; reports due next Sunday

It's that time of year! If you are a leader of a ministry or group, your ministry reports for inclusion in the 2011 Annual Report are due by Sunday, Jan. 29. The 2011 Annual Report will be made available to the parish on Feb. 19 in preparation for the Annual Meeting on Sunday, Feb. 26. Details will follow.

A form with a suggested outline for your report was e-mailed to ministry leaders with e-mail access this week, and additional copies are available in the Narthex.

This is a wonderful time to let the parish know what your ministry accomplished in 2011, and what you have planned for 2012. It is also an excellent way to thank those who have participated in ministry in the past year.

The preferred method of submitting reports is via e-mail to **Judy Baird** at jbaird@standrewspolaris.org. If you don't have e-mail access, please submit your typed report to the Parish Office.

After generous response from congregation, budget nears goal

The St. Andrew's Vestry has approved an operating budget for 2012 that is below the originally proposed budget of \$451,000. Final figures show that 129 families pledged a total of \$435,870 to this past fall's annual General Fund campaign.

You'll remember that the originally proposed budget itself was tight, foregoing staff raises for a third year, and holding the line on many other expenses. After additional cuts including eliminating the continuing education allowance for staff, and cutting the Diocesan pledge to \$200, there is still a budget shortfall of \$8,000. At present, that \$8,000 is coming from the Building & Maintenance line item, but it is imperative that we restore this to ensure that we have adequate funds on hand for routine maintenance and repairs to our facilities. For example, just last week, blowers on the furnaces in both the church building and Parish House went out, necessitating repairs costing about \$1,200.

Our current pledging families have been extremely generous in their giving. Sixty-three families increased their pledges this year, for a total increase of \$77,304 over 2011. Fourteen of those are new pledges. Overall, giving from the same 115 families who gave last year, plus the 14 new pledges, increased 14.8 percent, which is phenomenal given the current economy. Our average pledge of \$3,379 is above the national average.

The shortfall comes not because our current members are not giving generously, but because we've lost pledges from some members suffering job loss or other economic hardship, and others who pledged previously have moved out of the area, died

— Please see "Budget" inside —

Small Group Corner

Senior Fellowship gathering Sunday, Jan. 29

Our first Senior Fellowship Group gathering will be Sunday, Jan. 29, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. at the Parish House. We will be ordering lunch from Panera to eat at the house, so please bring cash or a check to cover your meal. Feel free to tell other parishioners and/or bring a friend. No RSVP is needed, but it would be helpful for us to have a head count, so if you can, please contact **Tally Whitehead**, Small Group Ministries coordinator, at 614-578-7897 or twhitehead@standrewspolaris.org. Thanks everyone for your interest, and we hope to see you on the 29th!

Small Group Leaders Meeting Tuesday, Feb. 7

There will be a Small Group leaders meeting Tuesday, Feb. 7 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the Parish House to make plans for the upcoming parish-wide Lenten Study and Soup Supper program, which will be held on Wednesdays in Lent, beginning Feb. 29.

All Small Group leaders are encouraged to make every effort to attend, and are asked to RSVP to **Tally Whitehead**, Small Group Ministries coordinator, at 614-578-7897 or twhitehead@standrewspolaris.org as soon as possible.

Watch for further details about the Lenten program in upcoming issues of "The Net" and on the Member Connection of our web site, www.standrewspolaris.org.

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At right, Small Group Ministries Coordinator Tally Whitehead, left, talks with Doris Cook about the formation of a Senior Fellowship Group. The group's first gathering will be Sunday, Jan. 29 at noon at the Parish House.



Budget

— Continued from front —

or transferred out. Our total number of pledging families fell by only four, but the monetary difference resulting from lost pledges was \$16,220.

We have been blessed by several families who have stepped forward to increase their pledges beyond what they originally submitted on Pledge Sunday in November. Responding to our year-end projections of a budget shortfall, these families pledged an additional \$12,050.

"Your Vestry and I want to thank you for what you are already doing to support Christ's mission here at St. Andrew's," says **Fr. Ron Baird**, rector. "I know that many of you are giving sacrificially, and we greatly appreciate that."

For those who have been blessed financially this past year, the Vestry is asking that you consider increasing your pledge for 2012, particularly if you haven't already done so. Just as the cost of running a household has increased in the past few years, so has the cost of operating the church. Utilities are up, services such as snow removal, lawn care and building repairs have increased, and the cost of Christian education materials, office supplies and other items has jumped.

"God is always faithful to provide for our needs, and members of our congregation have always responded generously to his call to ministry and mission in this place," Fr. Ron says. "I know that many of you are giving all you can, and I want to express to you how much I appreciate that! For those of you who have suffered from the economic downturn, please know that I also appreciate your efforts to do what you can even if you've had to reduce your giving."

"Others, however, may not have considered how rising costs impact our parish, or how important your gifts really are to God's work in this place. I am asking you to prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to give more to the 2012 General Fund. If those who are able give a little more, we can make up the budget shortfall, and ensure that we can cover all of our costs in 2012."

If you wish to increase your pledge 2012 General Fund, please fill out a revised pledge card (copies are available in the Narthex), or simply call **Ruth Eller**, business manager, at the Parish Office, 614-423-4250, ext. 101.

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES



Call goes out for 'Easter' voices

It's time to begin preparation of "The Twelve Voices of Easter," another series of first-person experience by Woodrow Kroll, founder of "Back to the Bible Ministries." The Easter voices will be presented on Maundy Thursday, April 5.

This year, our voices will be The Mob, the voice of hatred; Caiaphas, the voice of condemnation, and Pilate, the voice of evasion. Please consider prayerfully if you are needed by this ministry, and contact **Mother Nanci James** at 614-895-0144 or njames@standrewspolaris.org to join in this effort.

The Mob needs to be many people. This means there will be opportunity to join in without having a large speaking part. Men, women and youth are welcome. Please step out and join the voices; it will have a powerful effect on you!

THE DAILY LECTIONARY

The Week of the Third Sunday after The Epiphany · January 22-28

Sunday, Jan. 22 — Psalms 63:1-8(9-11), 98/103; Genesis 13:2-18; Galatians 2:1-10; Mark 7:31-37

Monday, Jan. 23 — Psalms 41, 52/44; Genesis 14:(1-7)8-24; Hebrews 8:1-13; John 4:43-54

Tuesday, Jan. 24 — Psalms 45/47, 48; Genesis 15:1-11, 17-21; Hebrews 9:1-14; John 5:1-18

Wednesday, Jan. 25 — Psalms 119:49-72/49, [53]; Genesis 16:1-14; Hebrews 9:15-28; John 5:19-29 **Conversion of St. Paul** — A.M.: Psalm 19, Isaiah 45:18-25 & Philippians 3:4b-11; P.M.: Psalm 119:89-112, Ecclesiasticus 39:1-10 & Acts 9:1-22

Thursday, Jan. 26 — Psalms 50/[59, 60] or 8, 84; Genesis 16:15-17:14; Hebrews 10:1-10; John 5:30-47

Friday, Jan. 27 — Psalms 40, 54/51; Genesis 17:15-27; Hebrews 10:11-25; John 6:1-15

Saturday, Jan. 28 — Psalms 55;/138, 139:1-17(18-23); Genesis 18:1-16; Hebrews 10:26-39; John 6:16-27

Next Sunday, Jan. 29 — Psalms 24, 29/8, 84; Genesis 18:16-33; Galatians 5:13-25; Mark 8:22-30

Note: Except where noted, the first set of Psalms and readings are intended for the morning, and the second set for the evening.

Next Sunday's Lectionary readings

To help lectors prepare for reading on Sundays, we are now posting the lessons for the day from the Revised Common Lectionary on our web site, and when space permits, will include them in "The Net." We hope this will be especially helpful when there are multiple choices in the Sunday Lectionary.

The Fourth Sunday after The Epiphany January 29

- Collect of the Day: BCP 163, 8 a.m.; BCP 215, 9:30 & 11 a.m.
- Old Testament Lesson: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
- Psalm 111 (BCP 754)
- New Testament Lesson: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13
- The Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

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Remember to check the web site before heading out to the church if snow and ice are on the ground to make sure your meeting or event is still on!