

Christmas Flower Memorials & Thanksgivings

The Altar Guild is now accepting contributions toward flowers and greens to decorate the altar and sanctuary for Christmas Eve. If you would like to make a gift in any amount in memory of a loved one, or in thanksgiving for a loved one, an event or a blessing, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate along with your check made payable to St. Andrew's Anglican Church. Please note Altar Guild in the memo section of your check. Cash gifts should be placed in an envelope, along with this form.

Enclosed is a gift of \$ _____ toward altar decorations for Christmas Eve.

Please print all information exactly as you would like it to appear in the Christmas Eve bulletin.

This gift is given by (please print):

Please contact me at the follow e-mail address or phone number with questions:

In memory of (please print):

In thanksgiving for (please print):

For more information, please contact **Ellie Schramm**, 614-846-0711 or ellieschramm@insight.rr.com. **Deadline: Sunday, Dec. 21.**

THE DAILY LECTIONARY

Week of the First Sunday of Advent (Nov. 30 - Dec. 6)

Sunday, Nov. 30 — Psalms 146, 147/111, 112, 113; Isaiah 1:1-9; 2 Peter 3:1-10; Matthew 25:1-13
Monday, Dec. 1 — Psalms 1, 2, 3/4, 7; Isaiah 1:10-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Luke 20:1-8;
Feast of St. Andrew — A.M.: Psalm 34; Isaiah 49:1-6; 1 Corinthians 4:1-16. P.M.: Psalm 96, 100; Isaiah 55:1-5; John 1:35-42
Tuesday, Dec. 2 — Psalms 5, 6/10, 11; Isaiah 1:21-31; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-12; Luke 20:9-18
Wednesday, Dec. 3 — Psalms 119:1-24/12, 13, 14; Isaiah 2:1-11; 1 Thessalonians 2:13-20; Luke 20:19-26
Thursday, Dec. 4 — Psalms 18:1-20/18:21-50; Isaiah 2:12-22; 1 Thessalonians 3:1-13; Luke 20:27-40
Friday, Dec. 5 — Psalms 16, 17/22; Isaiah 3:8-15; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12; Luke 20:41-21:4
Saturday, Dec. 6 — Psalms 20, 21:1-7(8-14)/110:1-5(6-7), 116, 117; Isaiah 4:2-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 21:5-19; **Nicholas of Myra** — Psalm 78:3-7 or 145:8-13; 1 John 4:7-14; Mark 10:13-16

60 boxes filled for 'Christmas Child'

St. Andrew's members filled 60 shoe boxes with gifts for Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse. **Lynn and Mauria Wideman** express their appreciation to those who participated in this project, which seeks to bring the Good News of joy and hope in Jesus Christ to children in desperate situations around the world. Our thanks go to Lynn and Maura, and the **Girard Disciple Group**, for sponsoring this project and giving us the opportunity to participate!

Stephen Ministry helps lighten burdens

Stephen Ministry at St. Andrew's is a one-to-one ministry by trained, caring lay people who have responded to Christ's call to "carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

Stephen Ministry is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another. Through one-to-one caring and confidential relationships, those who are hurting receive the love and care they need to support them. Stephen Ministry provides someone who cares, who supports, who listens, and prays.

Anyone going through difficult times who needs someone to care, listen, and share God's love with them on a one-to-one confidential basis can benefit from having a Stephen Minister. Such times are: Loneliness, loss of a loved one, employment changes or loss of a job, despair, childbirth, hospitalization or in nursing home, divorce, grief, terminal illness, shut-in, and other life crises.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry, you can find literature near the front door. If you feel a need for a Stephen Minister, please contact one of the Stephen leaders: **Brenda Bender**, 614-865-4565 or bkbender@columbus.rr.com; **Sarah Fabian**, 614-895-6745 or sarahgf@sbcglobal.net, or **Kathy Summers**, 614-939-1649 or ktsommers@sbcglobal.net.

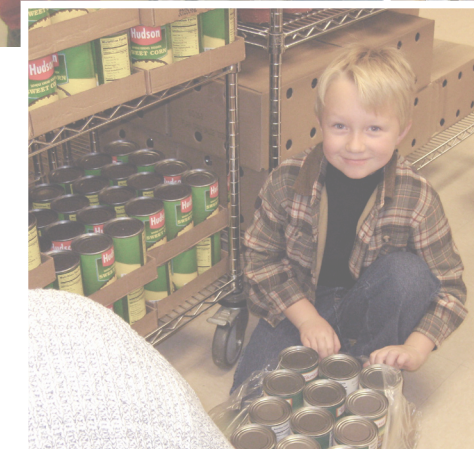
St. Andrew's Net

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Monthly Edition

St. Andrew's
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The St. Andrew's Youth Group and friends volunteer at the Lutheran Food Pantry in Columbus on Nov. 23. See details inside.

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath dates back to ancient celebrations of the Winter solstice - that time of year when the sun reaches its Southern-most point in the heavens and the days are darkest and most gloomy. Because they longed for the return of the sun's light and life, the ancients stopped all usual activity, sacrificed the use of their wagon wheels and hung them up, festooned with lights and greens, in their celebration hall.



There they awaited the return of their sun-god, thinking of the warmth and life he brought. Celebrations culminated in the "nativity" of the sun — the turning point of the year.

As Christians, we use the same meaningful custom to anticipate the feast of light and life: The nativity of the Savior. We add one light on the wreath for each Sunday in Advent. We think of the darkness after Adam's sin and watch the growing hope and light as the prophets and the Virgin help us prepare for the saving birth.

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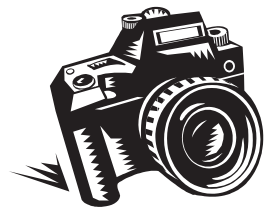
Christmas Tree Sale

Now through December 14
Tuesday – Friday • 4 – 8 p.m.
Saturday • 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Sunday • 1 – 5 p.m.

Sale benefits the Coalition for Christian Outreach at The Ohio State University

Say 'cheese'!

We've added a fourth service to our Sunday line-up; we continue to welcome new people nearly every week, and some of us are going out the back door as others are coming in the front. How to put names to faces? It's time for a new photo directory! • Beginning today, we will be taking informal photographs of families



and/or individuals for upload to the Member Connection of our web site and inclusion in a photo directory. Please stop in the Gathering Area between Sunday morning services or after the 11 a.m. service on any of the next three Sundays, or on Sunday, Dec. 7 at the 5 p.m. service, to have your picture taken. We'd like to do family photos for inclusion on your family profile of the web site, and will also take individual pictures for your personal profile if you'd like.

On the front

Members of the St. Andrew's Youth Group were joined by other parishioners on Saturday, Nov. 23 at the Lutheran Food Pantry in Columbus, where they stocked shelves and helped people with their groceries. St. Andrew's parishioners can log on to the Member Connection of the web site — www.standrewspolaris.org — for more pictures of the activity.

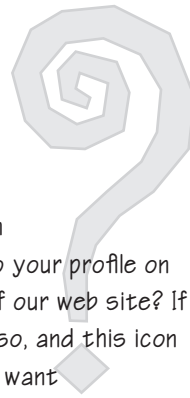
2009 pledge drive now at \$426,580

One hundred and thirty-four (134) families have responded to the 2009 General Fund Stewardship Drive, pledging \$425,580 to date. This puts us within \$17,920 of our goal of \$444,500. We are still waiting to hear from about 10 families. If you are among those who have not yet turned in your pledge card, please do so today so the Vestry can finalize the 2009 budget. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to Christ's mission at St. Andrew's Anglican Church!



Did you know that you can upload your own picture to your profile on the Member Connection of our web site? If you haven't already done so, and this icon appears in your profile, we want to photograph you! And remember,

Say "cheese"!



Class 101: Discover St. Andrew's Dec. 14

Fr. Ron Baird will lead the next session of *Class 101: Discover St. Andrew's* on Sunday, Dec. 14 from 2 to 5 p.m. in the Gathering Area. Class 101 is an introduction to the benefits of belonging to St. Andrew's, our purpose, mission and beliefs. It is designed to show you how our *M.A.D.E. in Christ* spiritual development process will help you grow in your relationship with Jesus Christ and live out God's purposes for your life

Anyone who is interested in joining St. Andrew's, or just wants to know more about our mission and ministry, is encouraged to attend Class 101, which serves as our formal method of incorporation into the parish. You may register by contacting **Judy Baird**, 614-423-4250 or jbaird@standrewspolaris.org, or online on the Member Connection of our web site, www.standrewspolaris.org. Child care will be provided for those families who need it, but we do ask that you let us know when you register so that we can make the necessary arrangements.

Birthdays

Patrick Nelson
Parker Elder
Christie Gales
Sarah Fabian
Marcia Johnson
Lissy Estrada
Larry Harper
Austin Stout
Isaac Wilhelm
Pam Dunlap
Eric Mulbah
Harlie Moreland
Chris Haines
Jean Falor
Alan Seitz
Deryck Richardson
Carey Rabold
Robert Williams
Benjamin Haines
Stephen Sattler
Don Bender
Hope James
Ellie Smith

Anniversaries

Ed & Kathy Summers
Alan & Christie Carter
Jason & Trina Anthony
Shawn & Mandy Dunn
Bill & Debbie Sterling
Steve & Jan Zacharias
Bob & Alex Seyerle
Frank & JoEdda Habeker

Advent resources help prepare our hearts for Christ

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, when we usher in the season of preparation for the birth of the Christ Child. In the hustle and bustle of holiday parties, shopping, decorating and baking, our focus can easily be drawn away from the true meaning of this holy time of the year, when we observe the incarnation of God in human form, Emmanuel — God with us. We're hopeful that this little list will provide you with some resources to help you maintain your sanity and restore your focus on the coming of Christ.

On the web

www.stnicholascenter.org — A wonderful site with a wealth of resources for families, churches and schools about St. Nicholas, bishop of Myra. Learn how countries around the world celebrate the life of this very special saint by clicking on "Around The World," and get ideas for how you can observe the Feast of St. Nicholas on Dec. 6 by clicking on "How To Celebrate." Parents especially will want to click on the "For Kids" link for coloring pages, word search puzzles and activities about the real "Santa Claus."

<http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/Christianity/Advent/Beliefnet-Interactive-Advent-Calendar.aspx> — A graphical "online" advent calendar, a spiritual countdown to Christmas with music, stories, activities and an a discussion group where you can talk with other Christians about the meaning of Advent, your earliest experiences of Christmas, and your happiest Christmas memory. On Day 1: A quiz: *Will Your Advent Be Too Stressed?* This site is a lot of fun, but no peeking ahead!

www.cptryon.org/prayer/adx/index.html — Prayers, meditations, recipes and more for celebrating the seasons of Advent, Christmas and Epiphany. Includes information about the Advent Wreath.

www.ewtn.com/devotionals/Advent — A calendar of meditations for each day in Advent, as well as information about the meaning behind some of the most treasured Christmas traditions.

Books

What We Do in Advent: An Anglican Kids Activity Book, Anne Kitch, Morehouse Publishing Co. — A fun-filled activity book for kids ages 4 to 7. Shows you how to make an Advent wreath, and provides other fun activities for children including mazes, crossword puzzles, connect-the-dots, and word searches.

Getting Ready for Christmas: A Daily Advent Prayer & Activity Book for the Family, Yolanda Browne, Concordia Publishing House, 2005 — A beautiful Advent book of daily readings and prayers, which also features a lift-the-flap Advent calendar on the back cover Each day, families can read a reflection, a Bible verse, a prayer of thanks, and take part in an activ-

ity, then open that day's flap on the calendar for a special surprise. Recommended for ages 4 to 8.

The Christ of Christmas: An Advent Reader, Calvin Miller, Broadman/Holman, 2002 — Daily meditations with Scripture, inspiring messages, quotes, and prayers complemented by beautiful artwork. Ideal for individual or family devotions.

Can Martha Have A Mary Christmas?: Untangling Expectations and Truly Experiencing Jesus, Brenda Poinsett, New Hope Publishers, 2005 — Poinsett, a confessed "Martha," offers tender insights, practical suggestions, and touching stories that show you how to calm down and slow down the Christmas season.

O Come Emmanuel: Daily Reflections on Hymns and Carols for Advent and Christmas, by Gordon Giles, Paraclete Press, 2006 — This book of daily devotions, which takes you from Dec. 1 to Epiphany on Jan. 6, explores the legends, message, and theology behind some of your favorite carols and hymns.

The Christmas Candle and The Christmas Child, Max Lucado, Westbow Publishing — These little books by the beloved Christian author weave touching holiday tales of love, faith, forgiveness and miracles.

An Angel's Story, Max Lucado, Thomas Nelson Publishing, 2004 — Previously published as *Cosmic Christmas*, this novel takes you on a most remarkable journey to Bethlehem and the stable, and reveals what might have happened behind the scenes, from the perspective of the angel Gabriel.



Bell Choir performs today

The St. Andrew's Bell Choir, under the direction of **Susan Sommerville**, will perform *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*, arranged by Cynthia Dobrinski, during Communion at the 9:30 a.m. service today.

The Bell Choir will also perform *Savior of the Nations Come*, arranged by Cathy Moklebust, on Dec. 14, with featured musicians **Collette McNelis**, playing the triangle, and **Patrick Nelson**, playing the finger cymbals and windchimes; and will present *Carol of the Bells*, by Kykola Leontovich, arranged by Cathy Moklebust, on Jan. 4.