

Alpha Course to explore basics of Christianity

Steve and Beth Myers will host The Alpha Course on Sundays at 6 p.m. at their home, beginning March 1.

This practical exploration of the Christianity will present the basic principles of the faith in a relaxed, informal and non-threatening setting. For people who are new to St. Andrew's or to the Christian faith, this would be a great way to get involved in a small group where you can grow deeper in the faith. For members of St. Andrew's who have already attended an Alpha Course, or who are currently involved in a small group, this is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends or family members who may be seeking to know more about the Christian faith, or whom you would like to introduce to Jesus Christ.

Alpha began in an Anglican church in London, England and is now held in thousands of churches of all denominations around the world as a powerful evangelism tool. For more information, please e-mail jbaird@standrewspolaris.org. You may also contact Steve and Beth at 614-505-6334 or bethmyers510@gmail.com.

Class 201: Discover Spiritual Maturity coming up

Fr. Kevin Maney will lead the next session of Class 201: Discover Spiritual Maturity, on Sunday, March 8 and Sunday, March 22 from 1 to 4 p.m. Class 201 is an introduction to the essential habits for spiritual growth: Worship, Bible Study, Prayer, Fellowship with other Christians and Christian giving. This class will equip you with the skills you need to begin these habits and will give you some resources to help you continue them.

- Learn how to select a Bible and how to read the Scriptures, and receive some valuable study resources.
- Learn how to draw near to God in prayer and quiet time, and develop a framework for prayer.
- Learn why gathering with other Christians to worship God is important, and how to get the most from Sunday worship.
- Learn why gathering on a regular basis with a small group of Christian friends who will hold you accountable to the spiritual goals you've developed for your life is important.
- Learn how the practice of Christian giving — as defined by the Biblical tithe — can help you put God first in your life.

Log on to the Member Connection of the web site, or call the parish office at 614-423-4250 to register.

THE DAILY LECTIONARY

Many people have asked us to recommend a pattern for daily Bible reading, and while there are many good methods for reading the Bible, we commend to you the Daily Lectionary from the *Book of Common Prayer*. We include in the weekly *St. Andrew's Net* the readings from the Daily Lectionary. Reading suggestions are found on page 934 of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Week of the Last Sunday in Epiphany February 22-28

Sunday, Feb. 22 — Psalms 148, 149, 150/114, 115; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; Hebrews 12:18-29; John 12:24-32

Monday, Feb. 23 — Psalms 25/9, 15; Deuteronomy 6:10-15; Hebrews 1:1-14; John 1:1-18

Tuesday, Feb. 24 — Psalms 26, 28/36, 39; Deuteronomy 6:16-25; Hebrews 2:1-10; John 1:19-28

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25 — Psalms 95 & 32, 143/102, 130; Jonah 3:1-4:11; Hebrews 12:1-14; Luke 18:9-14

Thursday, Feb. 26 — Psalms 37:1-18/37:19-42; Deuteronomy 7:6-11; Titus 1:1-16; John 1:29-34

Friday, Feb. 27 — Psalms 95 & 31/35; Deuteronomy 7:12-16; Titus 2:1-15; John 1:35-42

Saturday, Feb. 28 — Psalms 30, 32/42, 43; Deuteronomy 7:17-26; Titus 3:1-15; John 1:43-51

March Birthdays

Gabriela Baldwin
Kristin Beck
Matthew Beck
Amy Beverick
Morris Briggs
Christine Brill
Patricia Buehner
Gene Burch
Dick Busick
Crystal Carlucci
Anthony Carlucci
Caroline Christopher
Jack Christopher
Chris Collins
Monroe Dowling
Jocelyn Elder
Christian Emery
Alex Forman
Bonnie Freeman
Allie Gales
Drew Giese
Tom Gilligan
George Girard
JoEdda Habeker
Kristen Haines
Madeline Heichel
Tom James
Jim Loseth
B.J. Miller
Ed Miller
Celia Nelson
Joe Nelson
Steve Padolik
Georgiana Pearson
Kenny Purner
Peggy Parrish
Rebecca Roberts
Tami Roberts
Campbell Smith
Emmily Smith
Joanna Spanos
Carla Stout
Brian Sylvester
Cynthia Welsch
Lynn Wideman
Sara Willien
Monique Winkelman
Jordan Zacharias
David Zak

March Anniversaries

Dave & Marilyn Barnes
Ruth & Greg Eller
Bill & Pat Highley
Joe & Celia Nelson
Deryck & Nadya Richardson
Steve & Michelle Sattler
Lynn & Mauria Wideman

St. Andrew's Net

March 2009

Monthly Edition

St. Andrew's
Anglican Church

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Volume 2, Issue 3

From dust to dust

Ash Wednesday calls us to a . . .

By Fr. Ron Baird

Lenten activities begin the night before Ash Wednesday we call Shrove Tuesday (in French, Mardi Gras), traditionally with a Pancake Supper. Our Pancake Supper, hosted by the Kitchen Ministry and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, will be held from 5:30 to 7 p.m. in the Gathering Area on Tuesday, Feb. 24. If you plan to attend, please sign up today in the Gathering Area, or on the Member Connector site. If you have an electric griddle that you would loan the church for this occasion, please contact accolli37@wowway.com or 895-8819.

It is appropriate that we have a feast the evening before Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. It is our last opportunity to sustain ourselves with goodies before we enter into the serious discipline that is Lent.

Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25, is a fast day in the Church. As you partake in the festivities of Shrove Tuesday, also plan to partake in the spiritual discipline of fasting on Ash Wednesday. Fasting helps us keep in mind the plight of those who don't have enough to eat, and also focuses our attention on the need to be "hungry" for the Gospel. Of course, young children and anyone with special medical problems should not attempt to fast. The rest of us can gain much spiritually by submitting ourselves to this discipline.

In addition to the "liquids only" fast from sunrise to sundown, we pray that you will come to the altar of Christ at one of the two services that day, at 12 Noon and 7 p.m., to receive the imposition of ashes, to hear the call to a devout and Holy Lent and to receive God's mercy in the form of Christ's Body and Blood.

In order to experience the true joy of Easter, one must walk the Lenten journey. The imposition of ashes begins this journey by reminding us that we are but creatures of dust, created by God, and lost without his saving grace.

Many of us think of ourselves as immortal. It is important that we stop at least once a year to remind ourselves of the reality of death in our lives, and of our need for the salvation that is found in Christ alone.

Also during Lent, consider bringing whatever brokenness might exist in your life to Christ by availing yourself of the Sacrament of Holy Unction, or the Sacrament of Penance, called the Reconciliation of a Penitent in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

Holy Unction, or the administration of oil with the laying on of hands and prayers for healing, is offered on Sundays during communion at both the 9:30 and 11 a.m. Eucharists. At the 9:30 a.m. service, prayer intercessors are stationed to the right of the altar, and at the 11 a.m. service, they are stationed to the left of the altar.

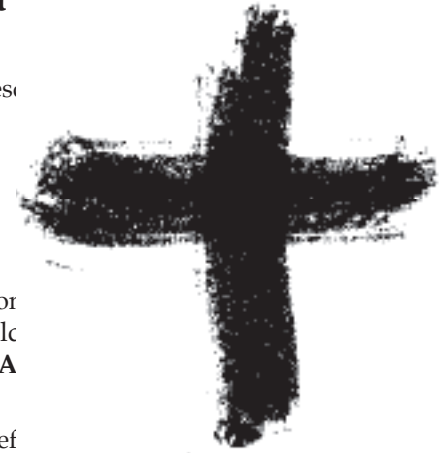
Whether the wholeness you seek is spiritual or physical or both, in the sacrament of Holy Unction we come seeking the wholeness of God in our lives. It is appropriate for

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Annual Meeting today at 6 p.m.

The Annual Parish Meeting will be Sunday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. This meeting will be an opportunity to hear from our rector, Fr. Ron Baird, and members of the Vestry about the state of the church one year after our transition, and ask any questions you may have about the Annual Report.

Copies of the 2008 Annual Report are available today at the Information Desk. The publication features reports from the staff, Junior and Senior Wardens and ministry leaders, along parish statistical data, financial information and descriptions of many of the ministries here at St. Andrew's.



40 days of Lent: A journey to the cross

Ash Wednesday begins the Holy Journey to the Cross that we call Lent. It is a time to put away the cares of the world and to follow our Lord and Savior to Jerusalem, to Calvary, to the Tomb. A time to prepare our heart, minds, body and soul to accept the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us.

In this one penitential season the Church asks the faithful to lay aside our own concerns and to remember what the price of Easter was and is. The Crucifixion of the only Son of God!

If we keep a Holy Lent, then the true meaning and joy of Easter permeates our life in fullness, because we have journeyed to the death that is Calvary; the sacrifice that is the Cross. We are thus empowered to the new life of the Resurrection.

During Lent, many Christians adopt a three-fold discipline of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. This Lent, St. Andrew's is offering several ways to help you in our Lenten devotions.

Prayer

Each Friday in Lent, beginning Feb. 27, we will offer the service of Stations of the Cross and Morning Prayer in the Sanctuary, from 9 to 10 a.m.

In addition, it is important that we set aside a few minutes each day to be with our God; to look at our lives and to seek his will for us. You cannot follow Christ unless you take time to ask where he is going. The Daily Office, beginning on Page 35 of *The Book of Common Prayer (BCP)*, offers an excellent pattern for daily prayer, including special prayers for Lent.

Fasting

Fasting is not a popular concept in our time. Dieting is, but fasting is not. Perhaps that is because we do not understand why we do it. In Lent, we fast in two ways. The first is known to most of us. We "give something up" for Lent.

Giving up something is another way of saying fasting. We fast from something. We generally give up something that we know we will miss so that the absence of it, the desire for it, will keep in our minds the sacrifice that Christ made for us: His very life.

What we give up is not nearly so important as that we do give up something that we will miss. Sundays are feast days in Lent; a time when we can splurge a little and have what we gave up. This is because Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, when our Lord's life was restored to him.

In addition to this kind of fasting, there are two Fast Days in the Anglican Church: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On these days we are asked to abstain from solid food from dawn to dusk. Of course broth, tomato soup, water and beverages are fine. But we abstain from solid food so that at least two days out of a year we understand what it means to be hungry (something most Americans don't often feel). This helps us to keep in mind the plight of those who don't have enough to eat,

and also focuses our attention on the need to be "hungry" for the Gospel. Of course, young children and anyone with special medical problems should not attempt to fast. The rest of us can gain much spiritually by submitting ourselves to this discipline.

Almsgiving

Almsgiving is historically the giving of gifts or money to the poor. This Lent, St. Andrew's will be collecting items for the Salvation Army on each of the next five Sundays.

- March 1 — Canned goods
- March 8 — Dry boxed goods
- March 15 — Baby food and supplies
- March 22 — Paper products (paper towels, toilet paper, etc.)
- March 29 — Housecleaning products

These gifts will be brought forward during the Offertory each Sunday in Lent and presented to God. Baskets to collect these items will be at the entrance to the Sanctuary.

Come join us on this journey that is Lent. Walk with our Lord the steps to Calvary. And join with him in his glorious Resurrection!

Ashes

Continued from Page 1

us to offer to God whatever brokenness we have, so that the healing power of his love might restore us to the perfection to which he calls us.

Whether your brokenness is a physical ailment, a broken relationship with a friend or child or spouse, or with God, whatever the need, you are invited to come forward to receive the sacrament. It is also appropriate for you to come forward to receive the laying on of hands for someone else who may be too ill to come to the altar of the Lord.

The Sacrament of Penance is undoubtedly one of the least used sacraments available to Anglicans. Yet it remains an important channel of God's grace. Lent is a particularly appropriate time to make a private confession to a priest. More information about this sacrament will be provided in coming editions of *The Net*, and can be found on our web site, www.standrewspolaris.org. If you have additional questions, or desire this sacrament during Lent, please contact me at 614-423-4250, ext. 102, or rbaird@standrewspolaris.org, or **Fr. Kevin Maney** at 614-423-4250, ext. 301 or kmaney@standrewspolaris.org.

Most importantly, Lent provides an opportunity for all of us to come, to pray and to offer our lives to God as a "reasonable and holy sacrifice." May each of us find ourselves at Christ's altar in Lent!

Log on to www.standrewspolaris.org for resources to help you observe a Holy Lent.

Ushers needed at all four Sunday services

There is a continuing need at all four Sunday services for people in the Usher Ministry. We need at least two more ushers at 11 a.m., and two more at 5 p.m. Ideally, we could use four more at each of those times, four at 8 a.m., and two at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in serving in this way, please contact **Mike Schroeder** at 614-937-8948 (cell) or mschroder9658@wowway.com. Thanks to all of those currently serving, and to those who have indicated a willingness to serve as a substitute.

'12 Voice of Easter' missing in action

Nanci James, director of the St. Andrew's Drama Ministry, is issuing an appeal to anyone who may have borrowed her book, *Twelve Voice of Easter* to return it as soon as possible. She remembers having loaned it to someone, but doesn't remember to whom. This is her only copy, and the book is now out of print. With our Easter presentation of *The Twelve Voice* looming, she needs it back as soon as possible. Please contact Nanci at 614-895-0144 or nanci@otterbein.edu if you have this at home, or have run across it in the move to the new church. Thank you!

'Pull' for Ronald McDonald House!

St. Andrew's Anglican Church continues its "Pop Tab Fundraising Program" for the Ronald McDonald House Charities. The little insignificant tab you pull to open your pop make a significant impact. This small metal tab is like a gold nugget to Ronald McDonald House Charities. A container remains in the gathering area for pop tabs. The pop tabs are taken to a recycling center in turn for a check made payable to the Ronald McDonald House Charities. Thank you to the many who pulled the pop tabs off their cans and deposited them in the designated container. A pop tab may seem like a drop in the bucket to you, but combined with the efforts of others those little drops can make a lake. Ronald McDonald House Charities is a not-for-profit house agency sponsored by Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus to provide nearby housing for parents of children under the care of Nationwide Children's Hospital for whom hotel costs would be a burden.

Just remember...Pull for Ronald McDonald House Charities!!!

Want to bowl with H.I.M.?

H.I.M. (Health Initiative Ministry) would like to know if you would be interested in an outing at a bowling alley. Several committee members have visited Sequoia Bowling Lanes and found it to be lots of fun and great food. These lanes have bumper bowling for all ages. Thus, no gutter balls! All ages are invited to join in the fun from 3 years to 100 years. If there is enough interest, H.I.M. will arrange a time to bowl. If interested, please contact **Kathy Seitz** at 614-882-2523 or akstz@aol.com, **Jane Lucas** at 614-891-0267, or **Marty Scott** at 614-901-0564 or msscott@standrewspolaris.org.

Orientation to St. Andrew's March 7

Fr. Ron Baird will lead *Class 101: Discover St. Andrew's* on Saturday, March 7 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Gathering Area. Class 101 is an orientation to St. Andrew's, and covers the benefits of belonging to our parish, 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.

You may register by contacting Judy Baird, 614-423-4250, ext. 103 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.

Who should attend Class 101?

Anyone who is interested in joining St. Andrew's, or just wants to know more about our mission and ministry!

I've been Episcopalian/Anglican all my life.

Do I still need to take Class 101?

If you want to join St. Andrew's, yes! Class 101: Discover St. Andrew's is our formal method of incorporation into the parish. We think it's important to know a little bit about who we are before you join our parish family. This class focuses more on the mission and ministry of St. Andrew's than it does on the Episcopal or Anglican faith tradition.

I've been coming to St. Andrew's for awhile now.

Do I still need to take Class 101?

We welcome your presence with us in worship and other activities, regardless of whether you've made a formal commitment to membership at St. Andrew's. We believe, however, that there are some important reasons to make a commitment to a local church community, and this class will help you decide if that is something you'd like to do. Making a formal commitment to membership also makes you eligible to vote in parish elections and serve in positions of parish leadership.

If I take Class 101, am I obligated to join the parish?

Although you will be invited to join St. Andrew's at the close of the class, you are under no obligation to do so. Once you complete the class, you may join the parish at any time simply by signing and returning the Membership Covenant that is in the Participant's Manual that you will receive.

I'd like to have my child baptized at St. Andrew's.

Do I need to take Class 101?

Yes! When your child is baptized at St. Andrew's, he or she becomes a member of this parish. We believe it's important that the parents be members too, since they are covenanting to raise the child in the faith.

