



THE MESSENGER

Growing Together in God's Love

Calendar highlights:

Tuesday, October 13

6:30 pm: Women's Book Group

Tuesday, October 13

7 pm: Vestry Agenda Planning

Saturday, October 17

6:30 pm: Cabaret Night,
Farmer Hall

Tuesday, October 20

7 pm: Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, October 21

7 pm: Coed Spirituality Group

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From Mother Jenni

Money and the Life of the Spirit

Dear People of St. Andrew's,

This comes as an invitation to you to explore your own spiritual life.

We don't often associate the spiritual life with the giving of money and that's too bad, because money and the life of the spirit are made for each other. Money – or the lack of it – is a big part of our life representing a huge portion of our collective concern as a culture. Let alone making money, what portion of your attention, time, energy, do you think, is devoted to its sharing, saving and spending?

Any subject as big as money calls for thoughtful and prayerful consideration by God's people. A big portion of our lives is devoted to money or its making, and as all life is precious in God's sight, and all life is where God's Spirit visits, then any and all portions of our lives are



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Warden's Corner

Stewardship: An Eye on the Future

It's fall—that time of year when conversation drifts towards stewardship. For each of us it means looking into our bank account, and our heart, and praying for guidance about how to spend our money. And spending money is not easy because there is never enough of it, so we have to make choices, sometimes painful choices. And just like its parishioners, St. Andrew's itself also has to decide how to spend its money—the money that you have decided to offer to the church. So as we begin the stewardship season, I wanted to reflect a bit about the fruits of your stewardship.

At our annual meeting in January we voted to fund a budget deficit by transferring funds from the endowment. Then in February we agreed to use a final distribution from the estate of Ann Sherman to renovate Farmer Hall. Both decisions reflected confidence in the future of

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Warden's Corner, (continued from Page 1) St. Andrew's. In choosing to fund an operating deficit we allowed ourselves to keep nurturing children, youth and adults in their faith journey: having our youth perform in a Twelfth Night Revue, offering Advent and Lenten adult ed programs, sending kids on mission trips to the Dominican Republic and Niagara Falls, holding a service of healing every Wednesday.

Programs like this enrich each of us this year, right now, but more important they distinguish us in the Shoreline community as a spirit-filled place to worship, that works creatively to serve God and each other. And they embody themes of our 50th anniversary: "Rejoice in our present; Faith in our future"! Likewise the decision to renovate the kitchen and Farmer Hall anticipates an active future of fellowship and education. The new kitchen will make it much easier to offer mouth-watering food for receptions, casual church suppers, and fancy dinner events. And while details have not yet been worked out, the hall itself will be cleaner, brighter, more cheerful and drier—a more inviting space where we can meet, learn, discuss and just talk. All of us on the vestry dream of coffee hours packed with worshippers, standing room only educational events, and income-producing wedding receptions!

New spending decisions will need to be made in 2016. Our Christian Education program, for example, is thinly staffed right now, and we need to reevaluate the hours and caliber of staff we need to keep building this vital program at St. Andrew's. And while we have seen a lot of new faces and families in church on Sunday, we may face a budget deficit again next year.

Your vestry is bullish about the future of St. Andrew's. We have work to do, and choices to make, including the choice of a new rector, but as the recent Discernment Day program showed, there is abundant energy and enthusiasm in the congregation, and most importantly, a strong sense of community, a strong sense that the spirit is leading us together in the service of God and Christ.

*God's peace,
John Armstrong*

Holiday Fair (continued from Page 3) More information will follow in the coming weeks on items that could be donated for the various theme rooms, and additional help needed before and during the fair.

If you would like to volunteer for any of the roles described above, or volunteer in advance for general help, please contact Maira Rieger at mmrieger41@comcast.net or 860-326-9584.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Staff

Jenni Matheson, *Interim Rector*

Rector@StAndrewsMadison.org

Barbara Gibbons, *Parish Administrator*

Barb@StAndrewsMadison.org

Grant Underwood, *Music Director*

Grant@StAndrewsMadison.org

Mary Merkle-Scotland, *Church School Coordinator*

MerkleMaryk@gmail.com

David Mikus, *Sexton*

David@StAndrewsMadison.org

Anita Spear, *Preschool Director*

Officers

Gary Naegel, *Senior Warden*

Warden@StAndrewsMadison.org

John Armstrong, *Junior Warden*

JrWarden@StAndrewsMadison.org

Cathy Golden, *Treasurer*

Treasurer@StAndrewsMadison.org

Louise Beecher, *Clerk*

Clerk@StAndrewsMadison.org

Vestry

Mark Auletta

Art Criddle

Lucinda Embersits

Kristen Garnett

Amanda Hayward

Colleen McHugh

Alan Miller

Rebecca Rastetter

Webmaster: Terry Sinclair

Messenger Editor: John Armstrong