



# Good News

DECEMBER 2022

## From the Rector

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*A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;  
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.  
-Isaiah 11:1*

Some of my favorite Advent imagery in scripture comes from Isaiah, most particularly in these words from Isaiah 11 which describe the coming of the Messiah in organic terms, as a new green shoot growing from a dead tree stump, seemingly spent and without life in it. That this green shoot continues to grow in us and through us is the good news we crave and are called to share with the world.

Wherever we dwell in the seasons of our lives, the scripture lessons we read together during Advent remind us that each of us is made new through the coming of our Savior. The community re-telling of the story of Jesus' birth through scripture, which we share in worship together during the Advent and Christmas seasons helps us ground our everyday lives in this reality: that the birth of Emmanuel, fully human and Divine, transformed the history of the world in an instant; and that his birth and his history continues to unfold in us today. We are, each of us, together, a part of the new creation God promised and Jesus initiated by his birth as one of us, to save all of us, by his love.

St. Andrew, Mentor, is a part of the new creation God promised. We, together, continue to unfold as a community to follow our Savior, as his agents of love in our time. We do this by sharing Holy Communion, praying, praising God, and serving God by serving one another and all creation, friend and stranger alike, with an open hand.

## FROM THE RECTOR (CONT.)

Thank you for all you do to manifest the new creation in Christ as the community of St. Andrew, Mentor. If you've not yet returned your pledge sheet (which includes your planned offerings of time, talent, and treasure), please do so as soon as you are able. If you need a pledge sheet to you by e-mail or snail-mail. Join us every Sundays at 10:30 or noon, and join us online on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month. As always, we do better together!

## ALTAR GUILD

All Altar Guild members: Please plan on attending the All Clean on December 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. For more information or to join, contact June Webb.

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

On Christmas Eve we will celebrate Eucharist and a pop-up Nativity at 7:00 pm with music and carols starting at 6:40 pm.

A simple Christmas Day service with Carols will be held at 9:30 am.

## CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Join us for Christmas Caroling to the Homebound on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>!

Please join us in our tradition of spreading holiday cheer! For many years, St Andrew's Fire, our contemporary music group, has caroled to the homebound of our parish, and other homebound friends and family members.

All ages and voices are welcome. Each family is asked to bring a plant or small treat to gift our homebound audience.

Please contact Marybeth Primeau at 440-476-4873 or [mbprimeau@gmail.com](mailto:mbprimeau@gmail.com) if you want to join in the caroling, or want to request we make visit to someone you know.



We will be caroling, Saturday afternoon, and carpooling to each home. Details to follow the week of December 12<sup>th</sup>. The more the merrier!!!!

## STEWARDSHIP

It's not too late to return your pledge cards! The vestry is meeting this month to make the budget for 2023. Your pledge information is vital to creating a realistic budget for the year. If you have not already, please return your pledge cards as soon as you are able. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

## December Celebrations

### Birthdays

- 02 Samantha Heim
- 03 Deborah Dittebrand
- 04 Barbara Sopko
- 06 Carol Pengov
- 07 Bonnie Semenik
- 07 Betsy Lee
- 11 Shawn Dittebrand
- 14 Joe Papaloe
- 16 Chris Peshek
- 19 Brian Sandacz
- 22 Beth Brown
- 27 Lily Sitkowski

### Anniversaries

- 28 Kevin and Erin Koehler
- 31 Stephen and Megan Grau

neighbors at the St. Andrew Food Pantry! No experience necessary – just a willing heart.

## Important Dates in December

- 04 Sunday Worship 10:30 am and 12:00 pm
- 04 Food Pantry 1 – 3 pm
- 10 Social Club 3 – 5 pm
- 11 Sunday Worship 10:30 am and 12:00 pm
- 13 Food Panty 1 – 3 pm
- 17 Altar Guild All Clean 9:30 am
- 17 Flower Guild Bow Making 11:00 am
- 17 Christmas Caroling afternoon
- 18 Sunday Worship 10:30 am and 12:00 pm
- 21 Candlelight Compline 6:30 pm
- 21 Vestry Meeting 7:00 pm
- 22 Flower Guild Christmas decorating 1:00 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Carols 6:40 pm  
Eucharist 7:00 pm
- 25 Christmas Day

## PANTRY MINISTERS NEEDED



On Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm and on Tuesday,

December 13th, please join us in serving our

## FLOWER DONATIONS

The Flower Guild is accepting donations for Christmas Poinsettias and Candles. To donate, fill out the attached form (copies will be available at church services) and place with your donation in the collection basket or mail it to the church office. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

## ST. ANDREWS SOCIAL CLUB

Announcing the St. Andrew Social Club beginning this December! Join us for an open house on Saturday, December 10<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm at the home of Rev. Lisa O'Rear, 1412 Ardoon St., Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

The social club will be a monthly social get together of folks in the St. Andrew community. The idea is to create a friendly space in which our St. Andrew family can get better acquainted and enjoy each other's company outside of church. There will be sign-up sheets for hosts and guests. The host is responsible for selecting a venue (own home, restaurant, event, museum, coffee shop, ice cream shop, park, etc.,) making reservations if needed and communicating these back to the church. Meals can be part of the event however we request that any costs to attendants be modest. Attendees are encouraged to car pool!

Look for sign-up sheets soon! Potential Hosts can contact the church office.

## GIVING TREE

We are having an Advent/Christmas giving tree and are requesting Giant Eagle and Walmart gift cards for families in need of help this season.

Please bring your gift cards to the Church by December 18<sup>th</sup>! Thank you for your generosity.

## BISHOP ELECTED

The Rev. Anne B. Jolly was elected as Bishop Coadjutor of the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio during the 206<sup>th</sup> annual convention last month. Information can be found at the diocesan website at [www.dohio.org](http://www.dohio.org).

## CHRISTMAS DECORATING AND BOW MAKING



Join the Flower Guild this December to help decorate St. Andrew for Christmas! No

experience necessary to join this fun and easy ministry.

We will meet in the narthex on Saturday, December at 11:00 am to make new bows for our wreaths and swags. Instructions and all materials will be provided. Old bows will be available to the parish to take home that day and the next Sunday.

On Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00 we will decorate the church with poinsettias, candles and greens.

## LECTORS

We are trying out a set schedule for lectors each month. Please see the schedule listed at the end of this newsletter for lector assignments. Contact Sherrie at [standrewmentor@gmail.com](mailto:standrewmentor@gmail.com) if you need any adjustments.

New lectors are always welcome! Training for new and current lectors will be provided in the coming year. Please contact the Church office if you want to contribute.

## CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATES

Laura Hernandez will be joining us after the 10:30 service on December 4<sup>th</sup> to sell her delicious chocolates. Pick some up or fill out an order!

## A NOTE FROM THE BENCH

### Advent Greetings!

Each year as Advent begins the new Church year, I am drawn to one of my most favorite hymns.

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came,  
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,  
most highly favored lady," Gloria!*  
The Hymnal 1982, #265

The archangel Gabriel is a bridge between the Old and New Testament. Gabriel transcends time and space and appears in dreams and visions in both the Old and New Testaments. (Haden, 2010)

In Daniel Chapter 8, we find Daniel trying to interpret a vision.

*In the third year of King Belshazzar's reign, I, Daniel, had a vision, after the one that had already appeared to me. In my vision I saw myself in the citadel of Susa in the province of Elam; in the vision I was beside the Ulai Canal. I looked up, and there before me was a ram with two horns, standing beside the canal, and the horns were long....*

New International Version (NIV),  
Daniel 8: 1-3

As Daniel experienced this vision, he saw a person standing before him and a voice calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of this vision." (Daniel 8:16) Gabriel reveals and brings reassurance as well as interprets dreams and visions.

Zachariah was also visited by Gabriel,

*The angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zachariah;  
Your prayer has been answered.  
Your wife Elizabeth will bear a son  
and you are to give him the name John... I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God..."*  
NIV, Luke 1:13-19

Zachariah's response was just like what our response to a dream or vision might be: "How can I be sure of this?"

Joseph was visited by Gabriel in a dream, as we will hear in the Gospel reading on the fourth Sunday in Advent.



*...an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."*

NIV, Matthew 1:20-21

And what did Joseph do? When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. Imagine the possibilities if we followed the guidance of our dreams – our Letters from God? (Haden, Unopened Letters from God, 2010)

And finally, Gabriel visits Mary as we read in the Gospel of Luke.

*... the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."*

NIV, Luke 1:30-32

And Mary asks.....*"How can this be....."* and then replies, *"I am the Lord's servant," "May your word to me be fulfilled."* Mary embraces this vision and follows the path revealed.

I think it is important to note that Gabriel says to Zachariah, Joseph and Mary, *"Do not be afraid."* Fear can keep us from embracing the wisdom of our dreams and visions, even though we know that our dreams come for our health and wholeness – every time. As Jeremy Taylor reminds us – A dream never comes to tell us something we already know, and the dreamer is

the only one who can say with certainty what meanings a dream holds (p. 3).

If you are looking for a way to honor this season of Advent – a beautiful time of longing, expectation, and even surprise – I encourage you to begin keeping a dream journal. Allow yourself to slow down a bit before jumping out of bed in the morning to recall dreams, images and symbols. (When we jump right out of bed into our day, dreams, symbols and images can be easily forgotten!) After you get out of bed, take a few minutes to journal your dream – first person. Don't worry about not remembering the whole dream or about missing a part of the dream, just journal every part you do remember, or even just the image or symbol revealed to you in your dream. Notice what symbols, images and metaphors are revealed to you. And remember, *Do not be afraid*—dreams come to us for our health and wholeness every time, and never come to tell us something we already know.

*Gabriel of high degree,  
he was sent from the Trinity,  
to Nazareth in Galilee.*

*He met a maiden in that place;  
there he knelt down before her face  
and said,*

*"Hail Mary, full of grace."*

The Hymnal 1982, #266

And, in this Advent and Christmas season,

May we sing God's praise with the angels always.

John Spiesman.  
Organist



Some  
useful

references:

Haden, R.L. (2010). *Unopened letters from God: A workbook for individuals and groups*. Haden Institute Publishing, NC.

Taylor, J. (2009). *The wisdom of your dreams*. Warner Books, NY

## VESTRY NOTES

New Vestry members needed. The vestry meets once a month a month on the third Wednesday of at 6:30pm. It is a great way to learn more about the workings of the church while having fun. Any questions, ask a present vestry member or Rev. Lisa. Please also let Rev. Lisa know if you are interested in running.

### **Vestry Job Description**

The vestry of Saint Andrew is responsible, along with the rector, for advancing the mission of our parish, which calls us to be open in spirit, deep in faith, rich in worship, and active in service. Each

year we nominate new candidates for the open positions on the vestry.

The vestry welcomes and thrives on diversity in background, and many different qualifications and life experiences can make for an effective vestry member. Listed below are some general attributes and qualifications for vestry members:

- Possess enthusiasm for the mission and ministry of St. Andrew and personal spiritual maturity;
- Are communicants in good standing\*, have been active in our parish life, and are regular worshipers and contributors;
- Are able and willing to make the necessary commitment of time and talent to serve as a member and/or liaison to at least one committee/work group in addition to regular attendance at monthly vestry meetings, parish events, and worship;
- Understand and participate in the vestry's stewardship efforts;
- Are willing to speak their mind, honor the opinions of others, vote their conscience, and work toward consensus;
- Are appreciative of differences in perspective and communication style and responsive to the diversity of the group.

### **Canons of the Episcopal Church**

#### **\*Canon 1.17.1**

**Sec. 1 (a)** *All persons who have received the Sacrament of Holy Baptism with water in the Name of the*

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*Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, whether in this Church or in another Christian Church, and whose Baptisms have been duly recorded in this Church, are **members** thereof.*

**Canon 1.17**

**Sec. 3.** *All communicants of this Church, who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered **communicants in good standing**.*

**FIRST COMING ADVENT POEM**

First Coming  
*Madeleine L'Engle*

He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine.

He did not wait till hearts were pure.  
In joy he came to a tarnished world  
of sin and doubt.

To a world like ours, of anguished  
shame  
he came, and his Light would not go  
out.

He came to a world which did not  
mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made  
Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our  
pain,  
He came with Love: Rejoice!  
Rejoice!



## LECTOR SCHEDULE

Upcoming Lector Schedule. Please contact the church office if you are unable to do the listed reading.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Reading</b>	<b>Lector</b>
12/4/2022 10:30 am Service	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Andy Speisman Brian Sandacz Debbie Pulman Kim Herczog
12/11/2022 10:30 am Service	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Chris Peshek Barb Sopko/Donna Curren Barb Sopko Micki Rotz/Brianna Rotz
12/18/2022 10:30 am Service	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Randy Pengov Mary Provins Judy Cudnik Andy Speisman
12/24/2022 7:00 pm Service	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Judy Cudnik Barb Sopko/Donna Curren Barb Sopko Mary Provins
12/25/2022 9:30 am Service	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Chris Peshek Micki Rotz Ed Bridge Micki Rotz/Brianna Rotz
1/1/2023 10:30 am Service	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Andy Speisman Brian Sandacz Eunice May
1/8/2023 10:30 am Service	Old Testament Psalm Epistle	Judy Cudnik Barb Sopko/Donna Curren Barb Sopko

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	Prayers of the People	Mary Provins
1/15/2023 10:30 am Service	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Randy Pengov Kim Herczog Debbie Pullman Eunice May
1/22/2023 10:30 am Service	Old Testament Psalm Epistle Prayers of the People	Ed Bridge Judy Cudnik Debbie Pulman Mary Provins

**CHRISTMAS FLOWER DONATIONS**

The St. Andrew Flower Guild is collecting donations for Christmas flowers and candles during Advent. There is no suggested or minimum amount for this donation.

To donate, please fill out the below form, put "Flower Guild" on the memo line and:

- Place it in the collection plate
- Mail it to St. Andrew, 7989 Little Mountain Rd., Mentor, Ohio 44060

Given By \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of Loved Ones

In Thanksgiving (optional for \_\_\_\_\_)

Amount \_\_\_\_\_