



the SHIELD

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FAMILY

ISSUE 12

December 9, 2009



Pastor's Column

As we make our way through the twists and turns of the Advent season, I find myself focusing more and more on the ministry of John the Baptist. As I said in last Sunday's

sermon, the lectionary brings us face-to-face with John on the middle two Sundays of Advent every year. This means that a full half of the four Sundays in Advent take us to one of the Gospel accounts of John the Baptist's ministry.

John was the forerunner of Jesus, the one who pointed to the Christ who was coming into the world. The entire point of John's ministry was to point to Jesus, and the church is at its best when it understands itself in this servant role. Pointing to Jesus is our vocation; it is our highest calling.

Wesometimes forget this in the minutiae of congregational life. It is tempting to get caught up, for example, in all the busyness of getting ready for Christmas, and, all the while, lose our sense of focus and priority on Jesus Christ. In the first chapter of Colossians, we read: "He is the image of the invisible God...For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell..." This is the joy of Christmas, the good news that we are called to proclaim. Christ is the One to whom we point both in our individual lives and in our life together as a congregation. May this good news form and shape us everyday. And may we join John the Baptist in pointing to Jesus.

Angel Tree Deadline: Gifts are due back at the church this **Friday, December 11**. Please remember to attach the tag to the gift. Thank You!



Stewardship in 2010

Update on Giving for 2010

Good News! The financial picture for St. Andrew is excellent. As of December 7, 195 pledges for 2010 are in-hand for a total of \$707,884. This is a wonderful start. While a few pledges have reflected the tough economic times, a large percentage of pledges have either increased or stayed the same. Likewise, giving for the current year is running at 96% of pledge fulfillment. St. Andrew is indeed a blessed and faithful group of disciples. Thank you for all you are doing to make this is time of promise in the life of our congregation.

Taking previous years as a benchmark, there are quite a few pledges still out. If you have not yet turned in a commitment card but intend to do so, would it be possible to hear from you by this coming Sunday? A timely response would be a huge help in planning for the coming year.

Thanks!

November Session Highlights

At its November 18, 2009, the Session:

- Approved the spring 2010 Christian Education teachers and curriculum list.
 - Approved continuing to hold four Services for Wholeness each year.
 - Approved the Membership Committee's recommendations on changes to the process of becoming a member of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church.
 - **Approved holding only one worship service, at 10:50 am, Sunday, December 27, 2009.**
 - Heard a report from Lisa Patterson's Lay Training Committee.
 - Decided to divide the Christmas Eve offering between Our Daily Bread and the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.
 - Approved using parking lot rental revenue to paint the Parlor and Fellowship Hall and to replace lighting in the Parlor.
 - Discussed the upcoming meeting of Grace Presbytery to be held at St. Andrew on February 27, 2010.
- Gail Graves, Clerk of Session

ADVENT

at

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Service of Lessons & Carols

December 13, 8:30 and 10:50 am

An annual favorite for many, our Service of Lessons and Carols is based on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held on Christmas Eve each year in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge. The strength of this service derives from the nine lessons, whose main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God, "...seen through the windows and words of the Bible." The readers are drawn from all ages of life and the choirs and congregation sing the glorious music of Christmas. We hope to see you this Sunday in worship.

Christmas Pageant

December 13, 4:30, Sanctuary

The elementary-aged children of St. Andrew will enact The Story of Christmas next Sunday afternoon at 4:30pm in the sanctuary. They have been hard at work the last two months rehearsing for the pageant under the direction of Marissa Glasschroeder and Lisa Haddad. You won't want to miss this annual re-telling of the Christ Child's birth, so make plans to be here.

Christmas Dinner

December 13, 5:00 pm, Fellowship Hall

All are invited to join us in Fellowship Hall for our annual Christmas dinner after the pageant. We will play host to the boys of Goodland Academy in Hugo, Oklahoma. The menu, under the direction of the diaconate's Congregational Nurture committee, will include ham, wild rice, cinnamon applesauce, green beans, and delicious cookies for dessert.

Advent Devotionals

The St. Andrew Advent devotional is added to the Advent page on our website each day. So if you miss one, or want to share these meditations written by members

of our congregation with family and friends, invite them to visit www.saint-andrew.com and click on the Advent button. If you'd like to receive the daily devotionals, send lou@saint-andrew.com an email request and he'll add you to the distribution list. Printed devotionals from Austin Seminary are available in the narthex.

Christmas Joy Offering

The annual Christmas Joy Offering will be received on Sunday, December 13, and Sunday, December 20. Look for the envelopes in the pew racks. The children will receive their banks during the Sunday school hour on the 13th and will bring them forward during the Children's Sermon at the 10:15am service on the 20th. The offering is divided between support for Presbyterian racial ethnic education and the Board of Pensions' assistance programs. Thank you for giving so generously to help meet the needs of others.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

5:00pm and 7:00pm, Sanctuary

Our annual Christmas Eve candlelight services are preceded by a harp prelude at 4:30pm and 6:30pm and the children's choirs will sing at the 5:00pm service. You will want to come early as both services are well-attended. Overflow parking will be available in the GTE parking across from the church on Oak Street and in the City of Denton Day Break parking lot across the street from the church on Bolivar Street. We invite you to bring in the Christmas season at St. Andrew on December 24th as we celebrate anew the birth of the Prince of Peace.

Christmas Eve Offering

The offering received at the Christmas Eve candlelight services this year will be divided between the Pastors' Discretionary fund and Our Daily Bread.

NOTE: Only ONE worship service @ 10:50 am on December 27, 2009.

Morris Martin Says

Remember that the Chancel Choir will not rehearse on Wednesday, December 16th through January 6, 2010.

Annual Meeting of the Congregation

***January 24, 2010, Noon,
Fellowship Hall***

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual meeting of the congregation on January 24th. We'll enjoy lunch together along with a new format, so save the date. You'll be glad you did.

Prime Time Christmas Party

Friday, December 11, Noon-1:30pm

The annual Prime Time Christmas party will begin in Room 206/208 on the 11th. Bring a dish to share for the potluck luncheon; drinks will be provided. You're also invited to bring a small – and fun! – Christmas gift to exchange. After the food and fun, we'll move to the parlor for some Christmas caroling. Hope to see you Friday!

Birthday Endowment Fund

The celebrants in the Birthday Endowment in November were:

Steve Plunkett	Mary Ellen Hogarth
Nancy Glick	Nancy Little
Paul Turley	Billye Akin

Our fund continues to grow each month. Thank you for participating and Happy Birthday!

Membership Process Changes

At its November meeting, the Session approved several modifications to the process of receiving new members at St. Andrew. Those changes from the Membership committee include the following.

- New members will be formally received by the session on the last Sunday of the month.
- New members will be acknowledged during the worship service on the first Sunday of the month.
- All those interested in membership at St. Andrew are strongly encouraged to attend an Inquirer's Class. An Inquirer's Class will be offered every other month at varying times. The schedule for 2010 can be found on our website, www.saint-andrew.com under the Connect tab.

For all those interested in beginning the membership process, New Member Information forms are located at the Welcome table in the narthex.

Thank You!

From The Treehouse

A heartfelt thank you goes to all our friends at St. Andrew. The Treehouse families are grateful to all who gave so generously to the Thanksgiving food drive. We received abundantly this year!

We also want to acknowledge the St. Andrew Quilters for the exquisite quilts they handcrafted for the Treehouse children! The reports we are getting say they are using them and loving them. Thank you so much!

Our Daily Bread by the Numbers

The November numbers for Our Daily Bread are:

Patrons Served: 3,541; YTD 38,054

Meals Served: 4,372; YTD 48,090

Cost Per Meal: \$0.24

Prayer Concerns

Family of Angie Jester Sahn
Dee Lunsord, Father of Sid Lunsford
Family of Ross Dale, Friend of the Raney Family
Elmer Adams
Matt Dinger, grandson of Morris Martin
David Bays, brother of Jim Bays
Family of Bob Lashuk, cousin of Lisa Haddad



January Birthdays

01/01 - Beth Whipple Sattin Sparks	01/17 - Erin Butler Tyler Tillerson
01/02 - Micki Leggett Chloe Callaway	01/18 - Kelly Bowen
01/03 - Amy Shepherd J.T. Turner	01/19 - Karen Miller Howard Smith Buster Brown
01/04 - Robin Kain Vicky Wardlaw Sydney Wells	01/20 - Ruth Walston Nickolas Lauderman
01/05 - Bob Sherman Roger Lewis Betty King Phil Jordan Chelsea King	01/21 - Willis Mitchell Shirley George Paul Haywood
01/07 - Glen Taylor Vicki Holt Jay Carradine Edie Lenaburg Marissa Glasschroeder	01/22 - John Thompson Jennifer Sweetman Alex Cortes
01/08 - Kimberly Campbell Jay Thomas Sarah Rosenberg Sam Strange	01/23 - Marilyn Richards
01/09 - Benjamin Coleman	01/25 - Gerry Jefferson Pam Elkins Sam Bays
01/10 - Edith Lindley	01/27 - Sue Gray
01/11 - Patricia Bennett Andrew Delarosa	01/28 - Stephen Shepherd
01/12 - Jackson Anderson	01/29 - Lisa Haddad Caroline Lara Krista Sparks Evan Neumann Jillian Dodson
01/13 - Jim Kitchens Sam Garcia	01/30 - Elizabeth Berry Peggy Capps Mitchell Merritt Lilly Glasschroeder
01/14 - Monica Criswell	01/31 - Karleen Abarr Tate Servis
01/15 - Elmer Adams Fletcher Hays	
01/16 - Patricia Morey	

NOW ONLINE:

Check out the Photo Gallery on our website. We just added (at long last!) an album for the Habitat Build last fall! Visit www.saint-andrew.com to see the new album.

www.saint-andrew.com

The Reformation Corner

Question: *What is Christian hope?*

Response: Christian hope is a full trust that God's will and work will be done in this world and that God's reign will someday be recognized by all people.

Note: This is our final edition of the Reformation Corner. Many thanks to Lisa Patterson for providing this informative feature each month.



Women's Retreat

January 22-23, 2010, Lantana Lodge

Women of St. Andrew—mark your calendars and plan to participate in our annual retreat at Lantana Lodge on Lake Ray Roberts in January. The committee is hard at work planning a wonderful time to slow down and learn more about ourselves and each other. More details soon!

Grace Presbytery's Israel/Palestine Trip

May 28-June 12, 2010

The Rev. Craig Hunter, pastor of Trinity Presbyterian Church here in Denton, plans to lead a group from Grace Presbytery on a trip to the Holy Land next year. He will be leading a class in preparation for the trip on Thursdays, from 7:00-8:30pm at the Mission Center in Irving, beginning January 21, 2010. For more information about the class or the trip you can reach the Rev. Hunter at craig@trinitypresdenton.org.

Youth Ski Trip

December 26-31, 2009

Remember Brandon Lewis, our middle school and high school youth, and the adult sponsors during the annual ski trip to Keystone, Colorado. We'll pray for traveling mercies as they travel on the 26th and 31st, and for safety of life and limb while they ski and snowboard on the slopes in between! Go with God!

COLOPHON

January Deadline: Wednesday, January 6, 2010

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lou@saint-andrew.com. *The Shield* is online in PDF @ www.saint-andrew.com.

Community Outreach - Help ODB Clients

The Community Outreach Committee is collecting toiletry items and cash donations for gift bags for the clients of Our Daily Bread. Please deposit travel-sized items in the box by the Coke machine near Fellowship Hall by December 15. For more information, call Ronnie Van Atta at 940.271.0077. Thanks!

Nursery Helpers Needed

We still need volunteers to staff the Nursery for the 5:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Please contact Sue Elliott, toddlerqueen@msn.com or 940-566-2164, if you can help. Thank You!

Pumpkin Sale Beneficiary

The annual cloth pumpkin sale in the narthex raised \$958.00 for the Pastors' Discretionary fund this year. The pumpkinsmakers were Patti Kregel, Billye Akin, Pat Bennett, Earldene McNeil, Betty Pryor, Judy Garrett and Joyce White; they say "Thank You!" for your generosity.

The church office will be closed December 24 & 25 and January 1, 2010.

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