



*The last and highest result of prayer is not the securing of this or that gift, the avoiding of this or that danger. The last and highest result of prayer is the knowledge of God -- the knowledge which is eternal life -- and by that knowledge, the transformation of human character, and of the world.*

... *George John Blewett*

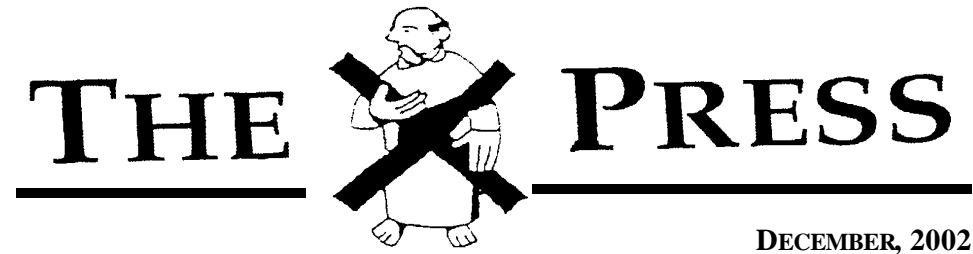
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### Expecting?

Within our very midst, there are walking, talking symbols of the Advent season. Here at St. Andrew's, there are as many as four families who are currently expecting additions to their households. Although at different points along in their nine-month journeys, they move among us as symbols of the expectant nature of the Advent season. St. Paul writes in his letter to the Galatians, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman." The "fullness of time" is pregnant time—expectant time, time of waiting but not of idleness, time full of meaning and importance. These expectant mothers move among us as outward and visible symbols of the word ANTICIPATION. They become for us very symbols of the incarnation made possible through Our Lady, Mary the mother of our Lord, Theotokos the God-bearer.

No doubt these soon-to-be mothers and fathers are hastily preparing for the arrival of their infants. Time of waiting does not mean time for idleness. Nurseries are being painted, cribs, strollers, and car seats are purchased and ratcheted together, cloths, diapers, baby wipes, and other paraphernalia are being stockpiled. And homes that were once carefree are now "baby proofed". All in anticipation for the long-expected day when the new bundle of joy

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*The X-Press is the monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*

floods into their lives like a tsunami leaving nothing the same as it had been before.

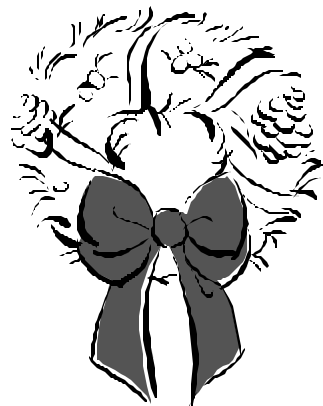
This Advent season calls us to *observe a holy expectation*. Advent is a time of waiting, not idle time. Advent calls us to make ready for the arrival of Christ in our hearts, homes, and lives. Advent beckons us to make ready for the second Advent, the second Coming of Christ, when all will be ushered into the light and life of God's kingdom. Like the families of St. Andrew's who are expecting, we too look with longing. We look with longing to the fulfillment and completion of God's kingdom. We look with longing to the tsunami Christ promised at his second Advent. We can rest assured that nothing will be the same as it had been before.

To the expectant mothers and fathers of St. Andrew's, "Thank you." Thank you for being among us as walking, talking symbols of anticipation and expectation. You remind us that we too wait ... wait with anticipation.

**Scott+**

## Advent Wreath Making

Everyone is invited to come to the Parish Hall on December 1<sup>st</sup> the First Sunday of Advent to join in the festivities of making your very own Advent Wreath to be used in your home. We will not have Christian Formation/Education classes on December 1<sup>st</sup>, rather, we will all gather in the Parish Hall for Advent Wreath making and, as always, good food, fun, and fellowship.



## Readings for December

### Sunday, December 3 – The First Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 64: 1-9a

The first reading, from Isaiah, reflects the intensity of the Prophet's hope for the Messiah.

Second Lesson: I Corinthians 1: 1-9

In the second reading, we hear Paul's greeting in his first letter to Corinth.

The Gospel: Mark 13: (24-32), 33-37

Jesus' message to his followers is an assurance that he will return and that our lives should be lived in preparation for that return.

### Sunday, December 8 – The Second Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 40: 1-11

Our first reading is the passage from Isaiah quoted by Mark concerning John the Baptist.

Second Lesson: II Peter 3: 8-15a, 18

The second reading, from Peter's second letter, looks toward the end of time.

The Gospel: Mark 1: 1-8

Today we hear Mark's account of the beginning of John's ministry and message.

### Sunday, December 15 – The Third Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: Isaiah 65: 17-25

The first reading is one of Isaiah's visions of the nature of the reign of God when the Messiah comes.

Second Lesson: I Thessalonians 5: (12-15), 16-28

The second reading is the conclusion of Paul's first letter to the church in Thessalonica.

The Gospel: John 1: 6-8, 19-28

Today we hear more of John's ministry and his response to questions raised by his message.

### Sunday, December 22 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

First Lesson: II Samuel 7: 4, 8-16

The first reading today is the promise God made to David to establish his line as kings over God's people.

Second Lesson: Romans 16: 25-38

In the second reading today, Paul concludes his letter to the church in Rome.



The Gospel: Luke 1: 26-38

Today's Gospel is the account of the Annunciation, when Gabriel announced to the Virgin that God had chosen her to be the mother of the Messiah.

### Tuesday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

First Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2-4, 6-7

What Isaiah had hoped for in the seventh century B.C. came, bringing light to the nations.

Second Lesson: Titus 2: 11-14

Paul, in writing to Titus, reminds him that the coming of Christ in to the world calls us to a new life, a life of uprightness and godliness as we prepare for Christ's return.

The Gospel: Luke 2: 1-14, (15-20)

Tonight we celebrate that, at a specific time and place, Christ through whom all was created came to be part of his own creation and began his life among us as one of us.

### Wednesday, December 25 – Christmas Day

First Lesson: Isaiah 52: 7-10

Second Lesson: Hebrews 1: 1-12

The first two readings from Holy Scripture look forward (in the case of Isaiah) to the coming of Christ, and remind us that it was nothing less than God himself who came to us.

The Gospel: John 1: 1-14

The Gospel reading is John's great hymn of the Incarnation (the becoming flesh of God's Word).

### Sunday, December 29 – The First Sunday after Christmas

First Lesson: Isaiah 61: 10 – 62:3

The first reading today promises the re-establishment of God's people in his kingdom.

Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-25; 4: 4-7

The reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians is a portion of Paul's proclamation that in the new covenant our relationship to God is based on faith rather than obedience to the Law.

The Gospel: John 1: 1-18

The Gospel reading is the theological prologue to the Gospel of John.

# Christmas Fair Report

The Christmas Fair made over \$3800 this year. The weather was fabulous and many folks dropped by to shop and chat. It was a terrific day of fellowship for the many St. Andrew's folks who helped make it possible, in particular the coordinators:

Jill Colburn - Raffle Table  
Joan Dillard - Bake Table  
Blanche Foss and Priscilla Andrews - Silent Auction  
Barbara Kamb - Vendor Table Sales  
Delores Louttit - Jewelry Table  
Helen Priest and Jean Cummings - Craft Table  
Susan Leeming - Advertising

Many, many thanks to Audrey Western and the Beef Stew Crew for their long hours prior to the Fair preparing the delicious Beef Stew that sold out by 12:30!! Also, special thanks to Barbara LeDeaux for pricing and selling in St. Andrew's Attic, to Mary Medeiros and Catherine Wheatley for holding up the fort in the kitchen, and to Al Colburn and Alden Smith for assembling and serving the stew!

And to those of you not mentioned here, my sincere thanks for all your help, your time, and your donations. It was truly a St. Andrew's effort that made this Fair such a success!!

- Deb Savoie

## Bake Table at the Christmas Fair

A big thank you to everyone who baked delicious cookies, cakes, pies and brownies for us. We also expanded our offerings to other food items such as special cranberry relish, savory pecans, cookie mixes in attractive jars and several other offerings. As people become more aware of cholesterol problems, we found buyers who liked some of the less fattening items so those are most welcome, too! At the end of the day we were happy to see that we had almost doubled our profits compared with last year. And for that we are thankful to all of you.

- Joan Dillard and Sarah Hamill

## Pony Express Rides Again

On Sunday, November 24th, the Pony Express is on schedule to arrive at St. Andrew's with a fresh set of riders and church mail.



The Pony Express' General Manager, Bill Veno, and Assistant General Manager, Al Colburn, together with the trail bosses, will be impatiently awaiting its arrival to start the distribution of the saddlebag contents. They all know that the teamwork of the legendary Pony Express was the reason for their success more than a century ago. Each rider knew he could count on the next rider to relay the mail, especially church mail, to its destination on time.

Some friendly competition will be seen at St. Andrew's as each trail boss anticipates that his or her route 'run' will be completed first, but not later than Sunday, December 8. We look forward to another successful Pony Express counting on St. Andrew's teamwork and enthusiasm.

## A Note From the Sr. Warden

Nominations for Vestry, Officers and Diocesan Representatives are now being taken. If you would like to serve or if there is someone you would like to nominate please speak to Anne Cahill, Claudette Hunt, Jonathan Wistar or Al Colburn.

Our income is off and we are projecting a substantial deficit budget – if your pledge lapsed over the summer it would be very helpful if you could bring it up to date at this time. This deficit is due only to normal operating costs as our repairs ( roofs, lights, floors) have been taken out of our reserve fund.

“From everyone to whom much has been given much will be required”

Luke 12:48

# Sunday School News

The Sunday School teachers and students are looking forward to the annual Advent Wreath Making and Breakfast on Sunday, December 1 at 9:30 a.m. There will be no classes but Nursery care is provided. At that time, materials will be available for making an Advent wreath for the family and enjoying a hot breakfast. We are looking for donations of greens and remind those who already have a wreath form to dig it out and bring it in to re-use. Those who would like to contribute a food item or help set-up should contact Ginny Vatcher at 978-448-8360 or vsvatcher@hotmail.com.

Next on the Advent/Christmas calendar is the Living Nativity to take place during the international creche display on Saturday, December 14. Who would like to participate? The traditional characters and animals in a Nativity will be needed to take turns over a short period of time. Contact Nancy Barringer at 978-448-2125 or geonan@charter.net.

And on to Christmas, with a Pageant being presented at the 5:30 p.m. service. We are looking for a large cast and need to know right away if you would like a part. They range from the speaking parts of the Narrators to the Holy Family (live Baby needed!) to angels, shepherds and various animals. Rehearsals may take place before classes, during classes or immediately after the 10:30 a.m. service. Final rehearsal will be Monday, December 23 at 7:00 p.m.

A few final notes for the two youngest Godly Play classes: we would be very happy for teaching (storytellers) and assistant teaching (doorkeepers) volunteers of any age and either gender. No teaching experience is required, just your interest and love for bringing the Holy Spirit into the minds and hearts of our (adorable) children. Parents, would you be able to bring snacks in periodically? Clipboard by the door. Also, send in a smock for the childrens' art time to save their clothes. Do you know what Godly Play is? There will be a presentation in the future during an Sunday morning adult education class with a sample lesson taught. Look for notification. If you can't wait till then, see Nancy Barringer or Kris Wile for a look around the classes.

— Nancy Barringer

## Joe Harris Recovering Nicely

As many of you know, Joe Harris, the founder and spiritual leader with his wife Eartha, of Crossroads Ministry had quadruple by-pass surgery in September. Over the last month and a half I have talked with Eartha and Joe a few times and I am pleased to tell you that Joe is making a wonderful recovery. Both he and Eartha are very thankful for our prayers. Before the surgery Joe was finding it increasingly difficult to do very simple things like walk for an extended time or up stairs. This was extremely frustrating for Joe who had always been very active enjoying playing with his children and shooting a few hoops with the kids. Recently he had a stress test and the doctor was extremely pleased with results. Joe now takes a good walk everyday and everyone is remarking the change in his vigor, attitude and spirit. He is well on the road to recovery and we thank the Lord!!!

This year was sufficiently challenging for Eartha and Joe with the move from Worcester to the new home in Maryland, settling-in, getting the children started in

the new school and seeking where God is calling them next, without the added concern of Joe's health. They are finally getting their life on a more normal course now but have not yet discerned where God is calling them next to serve. Certainly there is much need in their area and they expect to return to an active ministry soon.

I know they would love to hear from any of their many St Andrew's friends. If you would like to drop them a note their new address is—

Eartha and Joe Harris  
1403 Riverside Drive  
Salisbury, MD 21802

Or, give a call: 410 572-5572; if busy because the children are on-line, 5575.

Again, Eartha and Joe say, "Thanks and God bless you all at St. Andrew's for your prayers and support."

— Jack Mercier

## Loaves & Fishes Update



Loaves & Fishes Regional Food Pantry is accepting NEW clothes and Christmas gifts for children in the program. Also if you have any 'nice' articles around the house — unopened cologne, soaps etc. or nice clothing or accessories which are not being put to use, the children will have an opportunity to buy these items as gifts for their parents/caregivers. If you want to help but need more direction, call for sizes and ages for gifts: 978-772-4627. Loaves & Fishes is located at Vicksburg Square, 43 Buena Vista, Devens. From the Verbeck Gate take the 2<sup>nd</sup> left & the 2<sup>nd</sup> left.

# Confirmation Class



It's not too late to sign up for confirmation class. So far, we have eight youth who are just beginning their confirmation journeys. Just two classes have been held, so it's not too late if you or someone you know would like to be confirmed when the bishop visits in March please contact the church and sign up.

Classes are also available for any adults who would like to be confirmed, received, or reaffirm baptismal vows. If you would like to know more about adult confirmation classes please contact the church for more information.

# Incense Explained

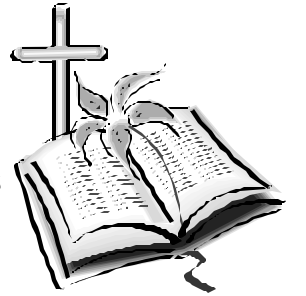
If you were among those who attended our All Saints' Sunday liturgy you no doubt noticed our first time use of the new thurible (also known as a censor or a vessel in which incense is burned. One who carries the thurible is called a thurifer). Although the use of a thurible and incense predates Christianity all the way back to the Jewish Temple, it is a recent addition to the liturgical life of St. Andrew's. Many of you commented on how much you enjoyed this new way of including yet another of our five senses in the worship of God. Some expressed curiosity to the history and use of incense within the Christian Church. What follows is a bit of information to satiate that curiosity and provide a fuller understanding of why we use incense.



Symbolic of prayer (Rev. 8:3-4), incense is used to enhance our sensory participation in the liturgy on the high feasts days of the church calendar. Frankincense or pure incense, the resin of certain trees, was among the gifts brought by the Magi to the young child Christ (Mt. 2:11). Its use became part of the post-apostolic Christian worship (from Revelation) and around the year 500 was regularly used for processions. Incense has been used in the Episcopal Church since the Oxford Movement of the mid-nineteenth century. Incense is appropriately used for processions in and out of the church, during the singing of the Hymn of Praise, and during the offertory as the gifts of bread, wine, and money are offered to God. In addition to the Sunday after All Saints' we also use incense for the Feast of the Nativity (Christmas), Epiphany, The Sunday Last after the Epiphany (observing the Transfiguration), Easter Day, Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity Sunday. On these high feasts days we join the psalmist in saying, *Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense... Psalm 141:2.*

# Book Review

***CHRIST IN THE PSALMS***, by Patrick Henry Reardon



A book of this caliber appears rarely - it is a classic work, one to add to your collection of treasured books. Here is both a valuable enlightened source as well as a devotional help. It has opened for me a way to more fully pray the psalms and practice the presence of Christ. As Father Reardon writes in the foreword:

"It is the profound Christian persuasion that Christ walks within the Psalms, and this is the reason that the Book of Psalms is the Old Testament book most often quoted in the New Testament. When He opened their eyes to the meaning of Holy Scripture, the risen Lord explained to His disciples the things concerning Himself "in the Law of Moses, in the prophets, and in the psalms" (Luke 24:44) ... Properly to pray the psalms is to pray them in Jesus' name, because the voice in the Psalter is Christ's own voice."

This is a prayer book for warriors! (Concilliar Press, CA. 1-800-967-7377)

- Jane Rockwell

## ***Editor's Note:***

***Next Issue:*** January 2003

***Deadline:*** **Monday, December 23**

***Send submissions to:*** [acahill@hybricon.com](mailto:acahill@hybricon.com)

*Or, drop off your submissions at the Church Office during office hours or in the Peabody Room on Sundays.*

***Questions?*** Please call me at:

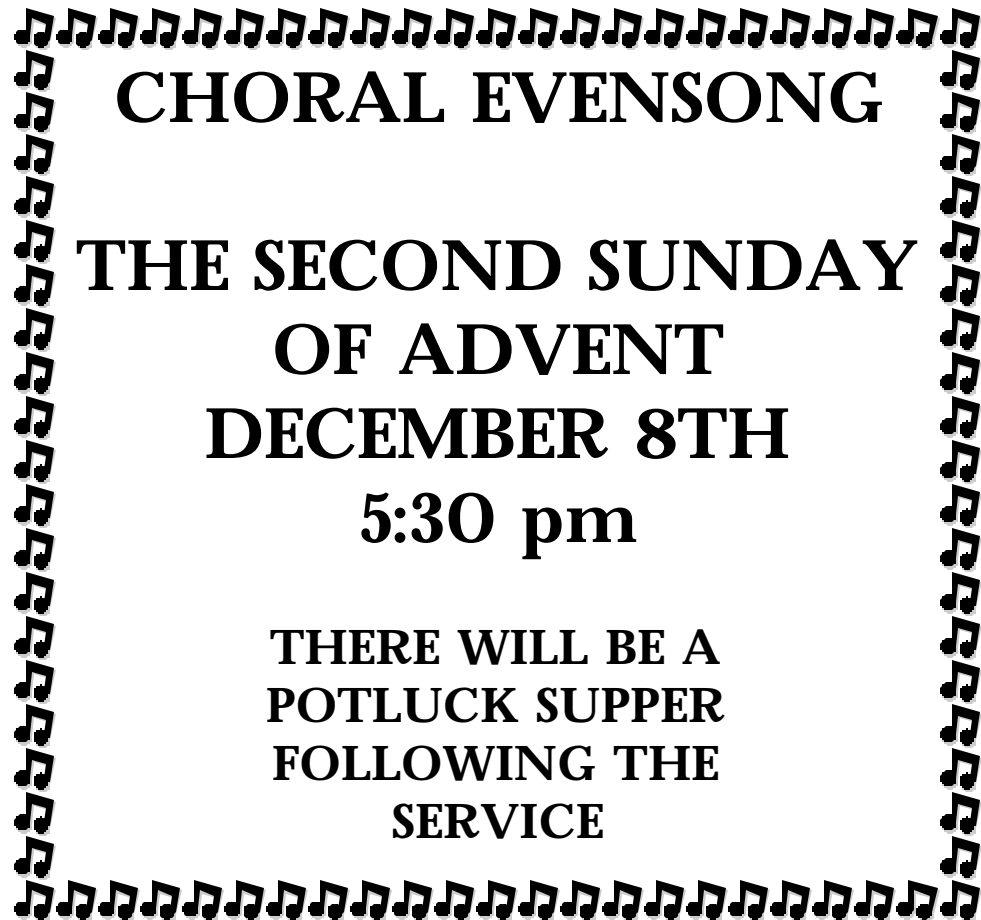
***H:*** (978) 448-4053

***W:*** (978) 772-5422 x 323

***Be sure to include your name and telephone number on **all** submissions!***

# The New Church Directory Needs YOU!!!

Put on your Sunday-go-to-meeting-clothes, comb your hair and say, "Cheese" because it's time to put together a New Church Directory. On Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>, an Olin Mills photographer will be at the church to take photos for our upcoming Parish Directory. You may sign up for a time slot, or simply show up at your convenience and have your picture taken for the directory. Olin Mills will then make the photos available for purchase. The time slots begin with 3:00 PM and will end at 9:00 PM on Monday December 9<sup>th</sup>.



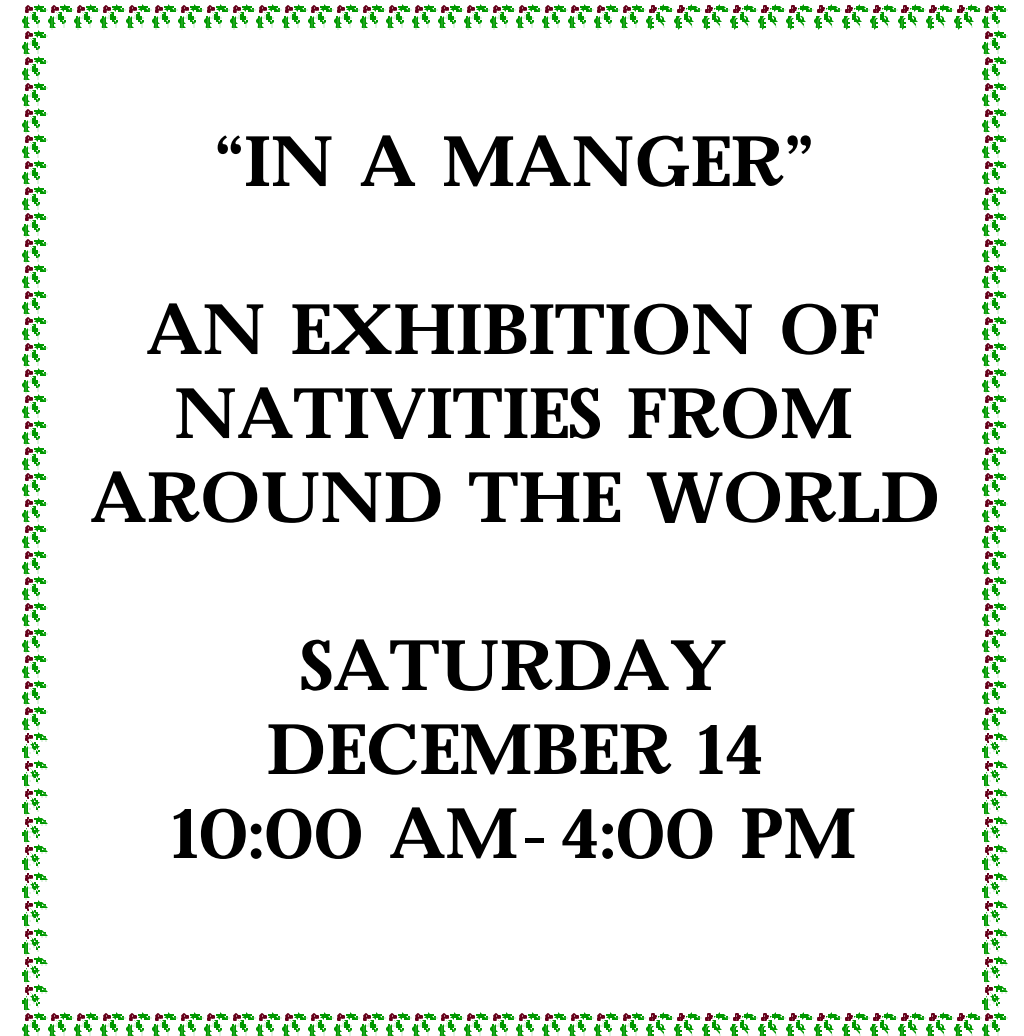
**CHORAL EVENSONG**

**THE SECOND SUNDAY  
OF ADVENT  
DECEMBER 8TH  
5:30 pm**

**THERE WILL BE A  
POTLUCK SUPPER  
FOLLOWING THE  
SERVICE**

# Rehearsal For Christmas Eve

On Monday December 23<sup>rd</sup> we will have rehearsals for both our 5:30 PM Christmas Eve Children's pageant and the 11:00 PM Festal Eucharist Christmas Eve mass. The rehearsal begins at 7:00 PM on Monday. If you are involved in either of these services please make plans to come to the rehearsal.



**"IN A MANGER"**

**AN EXHIBITION OF  
NATIVITIES FROM  
AROUND THE WORLD**

**SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 14  
10:00 AM- 4:00 PM**

# Three Vestry Opportunities Now Available

In preparation for the upcoming year, three vacant vestry positions are open for nominations. Two of these openings will be for a full three-year commitment with the remaining opening being a two-year. This is a golden opportunity to participate in the fullest sense within the life and ministry of St. Andrew's. The election for these positions will take place at the annual parish meeting the first weekend in February. You may nominate or self-nominate by placing the following in the alms basin or mailing to the parish office, remembering that ...

- Vestry leadership provides vision, spiritual leadership, and focus for the parish.
- Vestry members serve as liaisons and leadership support to the various parish ministries.
- Parish ministries are not dependent on Vestry leadership, which changes every year.
- Nominees are confirmed adult communicants in good standing.
- They have been active in the life and ministry of St. Andrew's church for the past year.
- They have made and kept a financial commitment through the annual operating campaign.

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Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

Have received consent to nominate \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no



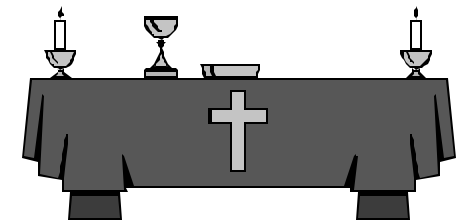
# The Latest News Regarding Altar Hangings and Vestments

The Church calendar is divided into seasons, each with its own appointed color. We have been in the Season of Pentecost, the longest season of the calendar. It runs from the Sunday of Pentecost (May 19 this year) until the first Sunday of Advent, and its liturgical color is green. You've probably noticed that, from his first Sunday at St. Andrew's, our Rector has been vested in green, as has the altar. On December 1 we enter the season of Advent, whose color is blue or violet. The stunning blue array ("array" is the term for a set of altar hangings) given by the Colburn family several years ago will dress our altar for four Sundays.

White is the color for Christmas, Easter, weddings and funerals. Barbara Kamb and her skillful needle have been transforming a white dossal, which is a large piece of fabric that originally hung behind our altar when it (the altar) was against the back wall of the chancel, into a new frontal. Thanks to Barbara and her artistry, when we enter the church on Christmas Eve, we will see our altar bedecked in glorious white!

Actually, St. Andrew's owns yet another beautiful white altar frontal, a gift of Jan Titus's mother, Helen Jahn, in memory of her mother, Mrs. Savage. Both white frontals have mellowed with age to a lovely ivory. What we have not had are the priestly garments (chasuble and stole) to accompany them. But now we will! Thanks to a most generous gift from a parishioner, who wishes to remain anonymous, St. Andrew's has been able to commission the Holy Rood Guild of Spencer, MA, to fashion a chasuble and stole to match the age-mellowed altar frontals. The chasuble will be ornamented with simple gold brocade in what Holy Rood calls a "St. Andrew's Cross" (how could we resist?). The donor has made it possible to also commission a pall, the cloth placed over the casket during a funeral, in the same color and fabric as the chasuble and with a gold brocade cross. We will have these items in time for Easter Day, April 20.

--- submitted by Susan Leeming



# December 2002

*St. Andrew's Church*

Tel: (978) 772-2615

Office Hours: M - Th 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
 Friday 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																																																																													
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