Candlelight Caroling

Friday, December 16th
5:00pm

Remember we do not have heat so dress accordingly.
Hot cider & treats will help keep you warm.
All are welcome ~ Please join us!

THE FISHERMAN'S NET

The newsletter of St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea

Advent 2022

Volume 31, No. 2

30 Church Road, Rye Beach, NH Serving the Seacoast since 1876

Dear Friends,

Advent is a time to reflect on the past year before we move forward with a new one. We have been fortunate to be able to come together to worship in our historic chapel, changing to keep safe but also finding ways to worship that hold fast to our traditions.

The chapel welcomed new visiting clergy and was filled with beautiful music from our organist and guest musicians. We were able to share fellowship at coffee hour thanks to the generosity of our volunteers. And for the first time we had a Blessing of the Animals, a joyous and bark-filled event that will become a new tradition.

We owe thanks to those who have ended their terms of service to the chapel, including Anne Nettleton, Jim Zuckerman, Darleen Chadwick, and Greg and Lillian Kann (who are staying on in another capacity). We thank those coming on, especially Joe Walent,our new Junior Warden, for the service they will give to the chapel in coming months.

Also, at year end we look forward to how we can create a sustainable chapel through continued repair and renovations and be integral in our community through our outreach ministry, helping those less fortunate. We were able to yet again support community partners – GATHER, Community Toolbox and Next Generation – through our summer concert series.

And this year we were also able to make a direct impact on the lives of two Afghan refugee families in our community, one in Portsmouth and one in Exeter.

It is clear to see the impact the church has had throughout the year using the congregation's gifts. The good we did with the resources provided happens only through your generosity and commitment to St. Andrew's and its mission.

At this time of gift giving, I ask you to think of how you can give of yourself to St. Andrew's, crucial to the continuation of our all-volunteer chapel. There is special joy in serving at St. Andrew's and the need for volunteers – for hospitality, concerts, altar guild, reading, ushering and more – never seems to be filled. If you want to help in 2023, please contact me to discuss how you can participate.

In a few weeks we will open our doors to the community for another evening of Candlelight Caroling. I hope to see you there, to celebrate Advent and the Christmas Season - invite family and friends to see how wonderful it is to be part of St. Andrew's.
Wishing you and your family the blessings of the Season.

Anne Arnold
Senior Warden

Christmas is coming...Advent is here!

I have been accused (rightfully so) of being a bit strident about the observance of Advent. In my own house debate begins this week about when the Christmas tree will go up and when the Christmas Carols will ring. If it were up to me, (and in a family of four rarely is it solely up to me) we would trim the tree on the 23rd or 24th and Christmas Carols would ring out for the 12 days of Christmas, which for the record begins on the 25th and runs until Epiphany on the 6th of January. Although this is the way that I think is correct, I am also a good Anglican and the art of compromise and finding middle ground is also an essential part of my being and more importantly...family harmony! So the tree goes up on around the 15th and Christmas Carols ring out soon after that. But the need to reclaim or discover Advent is crucial for all of us in order to truly and fully celebrate Christmas.

Advent comes from the word adventus meaning "arrival" or "coming." It is a time that we are invited to wait expectantly for the arrival of God in Jesus. It is a penitential time similar liturgically to Lent. The colors are even the same, violet or a deep royal blue, but Advent has a harder time making it into our conscious lives than the penitence of Lent.

The reasons for this difficulty are obvious. Life is as frenetic and harried during Advent as life can possibly be for many of us. Madison Avenue and the capitalistic machine that is our culture begin the process of selling Christmas earlier and earlier. The pressure to compete in this process is overwhelming for many of us. Never is being a Christian more at odds with our culture than during Advent. The culture tells us repeatedly with increasing decibels of volume to "Do more," "Buy more," "You do not have enough!" while our tradition and Jesus tells us to wait expectantly on the coming of God into our midst, into our very lives. It is in this tension that life occurs.

What does it mean to live expectantly, to wait on God, and as our readings this Sunday command, to Be Alert? This is the challenging practice of Advent for us. The world is shouting, "Don't just sit there DO something! While God is whispering, "Sit awhile and wait for the most incredible gift you and the world have and will ever know."

Advent also reminds us that in order to enjoy the feast, to truly celebrate the abundance of God's grace one must also have experienced the fast that precedes it. Our world says that life is just one big party and that fasts are for the unfortunate. Our God suggests that the movement between feast and fast is holy and one to be learned, practiced and indeed celebrated. There is much wisdom in this approach. Consider the work week that has no weekend or the vacation that never ends. The balance between feast and fast is essential to us being in a posture to pay attention and be present to our lives. I often hear people say as they take their tree out to the curb on December 27th (the third day of Christmas!) "Whew...made it through the holidays again." No wonder they are exhausted, we start the feast before Thanksgiving and we miss the fast. We miss the preparation for the feast. Feasting without pause, without fast, not only exhausts us and is a recipe for depression, but it also leaves us without the valuable time to reflect on the meaning of the feast.

I strongly encourage you to wonder what it might mean to be a follower of God during Advent and to expand your practice of faith to encompass the richness of grace found in the expectant waiting upon God.

Faithfully, your Vicar,
Rob

Junior Warden's Report

The chapel began its 146th year this past August in excellent condition. This year several preservation projects continued. The mid-section of the lychgate was restored, replacing the wood that had begun to degrade. Re-pointing of the exterior walls of the chapel began. The north and south walls were completed this September. Next year the east and west walls will be completed. The reason for the extended period is due to the proper application of the mortar. It requires a narrow temperature band to set properly, cannot be too cold or too hot. The re-pointing project is being partially funded by a grant from New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP).

In the past five years there have been a number of projects implemented to preserve our chapel. These include replacement of wood on the bottom section of the lychgate, restoration of exterior wood on the outer section of the Hoffman window and renewing the protective plexiglass, completely restoring the Tiffany leaded pane window on the north side of the chapel, re-slating the entire roof, installing support columns in the basement, and replacing the foggiest plexiglass covers protecting the side stained-glass windows.

Joe Walent, Junior Warden

Outreach Throughout our Community

Due to our strong endowment and strong commitment to give back to our communities, we have been able to continue our support of organizations addressing critical issues confronting families, women, and children.

The missions of these organizations and their impact in our communities are extremely significant. We were grateful to support:

Also, we were able to make a significant contribution to the two area Afghan families living in Exeter and Portsmouth. These families worked for the American military and were at heightened risk of persecution under the Taliban. They have pressing needs for a car to get to work, major dental work, and housing stability among many other issues. One of the families has two daughters who remain in Afghanistan and for whom they are working to get to the US as soon as possible.

These families are learning English and American culture, all while trying to adapt and grieve the loss of the family, friends and community they left in Afghanistan. There are ongoing pressing needs for both families.

If any feel moved to help these young vulnerable families, donations can be made as follows:

Support is being channeled through Ascentria Care Alliance (www.ascentria.org/). Contracted by the U.S State Department, Ascentria is an experienced resettlement agency that has tax exempt status under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, Employer Identification Number 04-2496563.

Donations can be made online at (https://secure.givelively.org/teams/ascentria-care-alliance/help-afghan-families/team-seacoast-nst) Funds will go directly into Team Seacoast's account at Ascentria, and you will receive a receipt to be used for tax purposes.

Alternatively, checks payable to Ascentria Care Alliance can be sent to:
Ascentria Care Alliance
Attn: Lesli Cashin
11 Shattuck Street, Worcester, MA 01605

Please be sure to put Team Seacoast or Team Exeter on the Memo line.

By our supporting these organizations, St. Andrews continues to live out the mission and commitment to make a difference in the lives of women, men, and children in our extended communities

Please consider making an important contribution to St. Andrew's. Please use the form included or by PayPal at www.standrews-by-the-sea.org/giving. Thank you.

Name(s): _____

Mailing Address: _____

Email: _____ **Phone(s):** _____

Comments: _____

Please check: ❑ **for $**_____ **to St. Andrew's buildings and grounds**

❑ **for $** _____ **Community Outreach to be shared fully to those listed in the newsletter.**

I'd like to volunteer for ❑ **Hospitality** ❑ **Altar Guild** ❑ **Eucharistic Minister** ❑ **Other** _____

❑ **Please add me to the email list**

**All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law*
Please return this form to St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea, PO Box 555, Rye Beach, NH 03871-0555

Blessing of the Animals

On October 4th St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea welcomed people and their pets to celebrate the first (at least in recent history) annual Pet Blessing. Our Vicar Rob Stevens officiated at this joyous occasion. The weather was gray, but the setting was beautiful, and the rain held off during the event. It must be reported that everyone was well behaved and appeared happy to be there. Approximately thirty people and twelve dogs attended this event. We look forward to seeing you at the event next year.

Altar Guild - Call for Volunteers

Are you looking for an opportunity to volunteer, meet new people, and become an integral member of the St. Andrew's community? St. Andrew's Altar Guild is looking for help. We prepare the altar for Sunday services, baptisms, weddings, and memorials.

To learn more about this opportunity to be a part of our wonderful summer chapel, please contact:

Lillian Kann (603-770-9272, Lillian.lrk83@gmail.com)
or
Darleen Chadwick (603-379-2147,
dchad21396@comcast.net)

Our Gift Shop is Open 24-7!

New this fall is a stunning Christmas card to share the winter beauty of our chapel with family and friends near and far. Sold in packs of ten. Please visit our website for details and ordering. And while you are there, if you are looking for a thought gift for Christmas or any time of year, we have elegant chapel notecards and our fabulous, limited edition Giclee print.

www.standrews-by-the-sea.org/gift-shop

Hospitality Coordinator & Volunteers Needed

For the 2023 season, we are looking for that wonderful person who is organized, great at scheduling, enjoys meeting new people and wants to make hospitality at St. Andrew's a success. This person does not have to provide the snacks and beverages, just make sure that there is a team set for each of the 12 Sundays.

We also need teams of two – can be friends or family –to be hospitality hosts after services and provide beverages and snacks. We can pair you up with someone if you are interested, too. If you love to bake or cook, great, but if you want to swing by a bakery, that is good too. The important part is that you help keep the tradition of Coffee Hour going so we can share in fellowship and get to know each other after church.

Please get in touch! Contact Anne Arnold, Sr. Warden
802-356-6066 or anne.richter123@gmail.com

Garden News

You may have noticed that the garden has become overgrown – the beautiful Evergreen is crowding out the Rose of Sharon and the Crabapple and the hydrangeas are vying for light and space. To that end, we are undertaking a garden 're-do'. Our goal is ensuring the new garden does not block the view of the circular window in the church, nor the sign.

In October Down to Earth landscaping, removed all but the 2 boxwoods. The Evergreen has been moved to the left side of the chapel and the Rose of Sharon back by the shed. Keep your fingers crossed they withstand the move!

Your garden committee has some general plans for the new garden and will be meeting over the winter to flush it out more specifically so we can get plants ordered and planted in the spring. We are focusing on perennials that are deer and drought resistance and that bloom in the summer!

Many thanks for Shelley Lord, Donlyn Ray, and Mary Ellen Dalzwell for being such tremendous team members!

Martha Byram
Gardener-in-Chief

Treasurer's Report

Our 146th year saw the chapel in full operation mode with wonderful worship, wedding and baptism celebrations, and glorious summer music. Thanks to the generosity of all who attend and support St. Andrew's we continue in a solid financial position. Our all-volunteer Chapel committee works diligently to manage our finances for both the short and long terms. This year we were pleased to offer a full twelve-week worship schedule, while also increasing our outreach support and starting the stonework restoration project.

From a longer-term perspective, after a decade or more of annual growth, our endowment funds have declined commensurately with the overall market. Thankfully, these diversified, low fee assets have a long investment horizon. As the market environment improves with time, we expect a return to a growth scenario for our portfolio.

We are grateful to all within the extended St. Andrew's community for your generous support. Thanks to you we can fulfill our mission of maintaining a beautiful chapel for worship, celebration, and offering significant outreach support to our Seacoast community.

Ken Hooper,

Treasurer

An Invitation from the Wedding Coordinator

St. Andrew's has hosted as many as 22 weddings a season and as few as five. Wedding Committee volunteers have generously assisted with rehearsals and weddings to assure our couples "special day" runs smoothly. Volunteers are welcome to join in this very important ministry. In early May volunteers gather at the chapel to plan for the wedding season. We would love to have you join us!

Sandra Gavutis, Wedding Coordinator
sgavutis@gmail.com

Candlelight Caroling 2022

You are invited to celebrate the joys of the Christmas Season with us at St. Andrew's on Friday, December 16 at 5:00 PM. We will gather in the chapel to sing together traditional Christmas carols surrounded by the glow of candles and the warmth of community. This magical hour of community gathering in song, showcases the simple beauty of our chapel and inspires a deep connection to the spirit of the Christmas Season.

We look forward to welcoming you to our seventh year of Candlelight Caroling. Dress warm. Sing with your heart. Enjoy the hot cider simmering in the back of the chapel.

Are you getting both printed and email copies of our newsletters? Are you ready to switch to just a digital copy? Help us save postage and printing and opt for just the email version. If you are ready to save some trees and help St A's budget email Shelley Lord at info@standrews-by-the-sea.org and let her know to remove you from the mailing list but keep/add you to the email list. Thank you for your help!

St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea
An Episcopal Summer Chapel
PO Box 555, Rye Beach, NH 03871
Serving the Seacoast since 1876

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