



Candlelight Caroling

Friday, December 22nd
5:00pm

It's a magical night of Christmas songs & celebration, hot cider & treats.

All are welcome but dress warm, there's no heat!

THE FISHERMAN'S NET

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

Advent
2023

Volume 32, No. 2

30 Church Road, Rye Beach, NH

Serving the Seacoast since 1876

Dear Friends,

Looking back, it was a successful summer season without many surprises – finally! Although we still took communion in one kind, St. Andrew's was back to normal, filled with beautiful music that added joy to our services. We welcomed a wide range of visiting clergy and we saw many new and familiar faces. Despite the lack of a tent and some rainy weather, we held delightful coffee hours filled with fellowship.

We continue to connect with the Rye and Seacoast community to share our beautiful, historic chapel. We had a successful collaboration with the Rye 400 initiative as our chapel is an important part of Rye's history. At an Open House in June, Chapel Historian, Greg Kann led a tour and presentation to over 60 people, many of whom had never been to St. Andrew's. In October the lawn of St. Andrew's was filled with wagging tails at the Blessing of the Animals, again well attended with nearly 100 pet parents. As we continue to find ways to be relevant in the community, we hope to make these special events annual occurrences.

This summer we gathered with a facilitator to refresh our vision for St. Andrew's future at the first of several anticipated strategic planning meetings. Being relevant in the community and finding ways to introduce potential parishioners to the chapel were top of the goals list. Through special events, whether history, music, or hospitality-themed, we hope to achieve this goal in the 2024 season.

At this time of thanksgiving, reflection, and new beginnings, I would like to thank everyone who has given their time and talents to the chapel in 2023 and those who have committed to volunteering in 2024. We really would not be able to do this without you. A special thanks to the Chapel and Executive committees for all their hard work this season.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Anne Richter Arnold, Senior Warden



St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea

An Episcopal Summer Chapel

Living Expectantly



What does it mean to live expectantly, to wait on God? 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 will ever know.”

Advent also reminds us that 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

What can be said about another year at the St. Andrew’s-by-the Sea that has not already been said in its long and storied history? Not much. The summer witnessed a chapel that made it through what many considered a mild winter no worse for wear. The grounds were coaxed back to life, and the building was opened with little to no issues. This is a credit to the long-time efforts of all who contribute to the regular upkeep and maintenance of this building.

The re-pointing project restarted in the waning days of summer and was completed in early fall. Problem areas that were addressed and preservation efforts undertaken in prior decades will be monitored on a regular cycle to stem any degradation and keep the integrity of the outer shell secure. The regular painting outside and in has been underway, with the interior work being concluded before Thanksgiving.

All in all, the structure is sound and with the maintenance and preservation systems in place, promises to remain so. Contributions to St. Andrew’s go a long way in the battle against the elements in keeping this idyllic chapel for future generations.

The reinvigoration of the pavilion project has gained momentum and is moving forward. The effort is to secure permits for the design and building of a permanent structure over the Golledge Table and brick patio. We want to provide a respite from the summer sun and precipitation so we can all socialize comfortably outdoors. We welcome new and returning members to get involved with this exciting project.



On October 14 the Rye 400 held a Scavenger Hunt. It was a grand adventure through Rye with groups following clues and finding treasures. A great time was had by all, and Rye's very own Dan Brown supplied a surprise clue. Can you guess where he was directing everyone?

A saintly soul with heart of gold,

Ami de les pêcheurs.

To find him, go to water's edge,

The beach that bass prefer.

Turn your back to mother sea,

Traverse a holy road.

A "baker's" mansion you must pass,

To find his stone abode.

You seek a circle made of glass,

A sun within a sun,

On your head the date will read,

Nine-L-Eighty-One.

Beneath the year a selfie,

To prove you've made the quest.

Stand proud and stately if you must,

But kneeling would be best.

Outreach Report – 2023

Many thanks to Sandra Pagel, Liz Madison, Ann Nettleton, and Martha Byam for serving on the Outreach committee!

We recommended and the Executive Committee approved support for the following organizations: American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem (AFEDJ), Haven, Seacoast Family Promise, Gather, 68 hours of Hunger, Thistle Farms, Hampton Trinity Food Pantry, NH, Seminary Ministry, and the Clean Air Task Force to help support the work and needs in our greater community.

Given the enormous humanitarian tragedies currently unfolding in the Middle East affecting children, women, and families, the Outreach Committee has requested that consideration be given to providing additional funds that may be available at year's end to AFEDJ and the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund.

Ways that we can all help at this time of year are many, and here are some very worthy possibilities:

- Haven and the Seacoast Mental Health Center are seeking gift cards in \$25 levels from Market Basket, Hannaford, Target, and Walmart to give to families in need. Visit www.havennh.org and smhc-nh.org
- Seacoast Family Promise seeks same \$25 gift cards as well as donors to adopt a family for Christmas. Visit www.seacoastfamilypromise.org.

Thank you!

Gary Fincke, Outreach Chairperson



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 stained glass window restoration project

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

Blessing of the Animals

October 4th marked our second annual Blessing of the Animals. It was a delightfully warm and sunny fall day. We welcomed a sizable group, and it was fun to see and celebrate the special bond people and their four-legged friends share. The event brought people who attend the chapel as well as area neighbors and friends. The group was in constant motion, so an exact head count was elusive but appears to have been close to 100 attendees: many dogs, one cat, and their people. Our Vicar, Rev. Rob Stevens led our service and affirmed the gifts we receive daily from our companions. There were refreshments for all (except the cat - we'll do better next year). Many hands made light the work. We look forward to welcoming even more people and pets next year.



Planned Giving

Please consider making a gift to help ensure our chapel, the place you have enjoyed and supported for so long, is here for generations to come. If you would like to learn more about making a gift through a will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance to St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea please reach out and our Vicar, Rob Stevens, rector@stjohn's.org or Treasurer, Ken Hooper, treasurer@standrews-by-the-sea.org will be happy to meet with you.

Visit Our Virtual Gift Shop!

Sending one of our stunning Christmas cards shares the winter beauty of our chapel and greetings of the season with family and friends near and far. Sold in packs of ten for \$20.00 including shipping. Please visit our website for details and ordering. And while you are there if you are looking for a thoughtful 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



Welcome our new Hospitality & Fellowship Chairperson

Over countless years, after-service hospitality and fellowship have been a hallmark of Sundays at St. Andrew's. As Chair, I look forward to helping continue this tradition. Thanks to all who this season, and in the past, provided wonderful gifts of coffee and lemonade, home baked and purchased goodies, and graced the Golledge Table with lovely flowers and decoration. Welcoming our visitors and providing fellowship following our services would not be possible without you. Thank you again and I look forward to working with all our volunteers again next season.

Dana Hooper, Hospitality & Fellowship

About the new front garden...

Our newly planted “moon” garden did well over the summer. We even had a few hydrangeas bloom! Over the next year or two, we should see it grow and fill in, requiring not as many annuals. With special thanks to a generous donation from a Friend of St. Andrew’s, we moved the Rose of Sharon from the original garden and added to it by two. All three seem to be enjoying their new home by the red shed. The garden is cared for by a wonderful group of four - Shelley Lord, Donlyn Ray, Mary Ellen Dalzell, and me. We always welcome others to join us - having a good time together is part of the ‘work’! Thank you to all in the Chapel community for supporting us during this process!

Martha Byam, Gardener Chairperson



Memorial Garden

A restoration and expansion planned back in 2021 finally got underway this summer. But with all the rain it took until fall to get completed! Sixteen new flat stones were added and the excavated dirt was used to lift the existing stones that had settled too far down were brought back up to grade. Encroaching grass was pulled back for a fully refreshed garden area. If you are considering purchasing one of the new sites for you or a loved one reach out to Shelley Lord at info@standrews-by-the-sea.org

From our Treasurer

Thanks to the generosity of all who attend and support St. Andrew’s, we continue to be able to manage our finances for both the short and long term. This season, our annual operating budget enabled us to offer a thirteen-week season with inspirational clergy and glorious music provided by a cadre of young, talented musicians. Our Outreach budget allowed us to offer financial support to three new deserving organizations as well as continuing to aid those we have traditionally supported. On the maintenance front, we were able to finish the stone-repointing project and paint the chapel.

Year to date, our investment accounts, both those managed through the Diocese Manager as well as our smaller, self-directed account have performance gains. While we are not immune to the ups and downs of the market, thankfully we have a diversified portfolio of assets with a longer-term horizon.

We are grateful to all within the St. Andrew’s community for your generous support. Thanks to you we can fulfill our mission of maintaining our historic chapel for worship, celebration, and providing outreach care to those in need.

Ken Hooper, Treasurer

Snaps from the Summer of ‘23



Meet early parishioners, the Wilkes sisters

Grace and Harriet Wilkes lived on Washington Square North in New York City. They summered on the Seacoast and were two of the earliest supporters of St. Andrew's. Never married, the sisters were descendants of Rufus King, one of the signers of the United States Constitution in 1787.

The first memorial stained-glass window was installed in the chapel in 1887 and was a gift from Grace to her sister. It was designed by noted stained glass artist, John LaFarge, whose windows are also at Trinity Church in Copley Square in Boston. You can find the window, inscribed, "Harriet King Wilkes," on the front, left side of the chapel. It's the last one before the St. Andrew bas-relief and the American flag.

Grace and Harriet were aware that a chapel bell was needed and generously agreed to gift one. To fabricate the bell, they selected Holbrook Bell Foundry of East Medway, Massachusetts. However, the bell ended up being too large for a full swing in the original bell tower. A sad mistake to be sure but what was to be done?
To be continued in the spring newsletter...



Unknown parishioner circa 1905.