



St. Andrew's Tidings

A Message from:

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Once again our choir has been working hard, practicing for the wonderful Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols which really begins the Christmas season for us here at St. Andrew's.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. (He later devised the Advent Carol Service in 1934, and was a liturgical pioneer and authority during his twenty two years as Dean of York.) The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist 1876–1929. A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in royal David's city'.

The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 pm on Christmas Eve 1880. AC Benson recalled: 'My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop.' The suggestion had come from GHS. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh. Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider frame began to grow when the service was first broadcast in 1928 and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel and the name of King's could not be broadcast for security reasons.

The Festival is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir music. The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. Lessons and Carols most often occur in Anglican churches, but also in some Roman Catholic parishes, Lutheran parishes, and Presbyterian institutions. Moreover, numerous Christian churches have adopted this service, or a variation on this service, as part of their Christmas celebrations. In the UK, the service has become the standard format for schools' Christmas carol services.

I am always personally thrilled and touched by this particular service. It signals for me “the beginning” of the “beginning.” For we hear in the last lesson from the gospel of John, “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was with God.” Come, begin your liturgical Christmas season by hearing the lessons and the music, and support our choir who works so hard all year. You will be surprised and pleased.

Blessings and love,

Margaret+

Christmas Services, 2013

Tuesday, December 24th

4:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Festal Holy Eucharist

With Brass

Christmas and Easter are the two most special times for evangelism, and we seek to minister to all who would worship with us.

If you wish to give flowers on the Sundays during Advent, we will be using white Poinsettias, which you may take home following the service. Please sign up on the bulletin board or call the office.

December Centennial Challenge

Our December Centennial Challenge is to collectively, as a parish family, accomplish 100 “good works” from Dec.1 – Dec. 22. The acts may vary. Some examples include, **but are not limited to:**

Volunteer work at a hospital

Meals on wheels

Visiting someone in a nursing home/hospital/shut-ins

Helping at church - in the office, cleaning, altar guild, providing food, etc.

Meals at Grace

Providing a ride to a shut-in or to doctor appointments

Taking communion to a shut-in

Calling and talking with those who are ill or shut-in

Babysitting so parents can shop or make preparations for Christmas

Participating in events of local organizations to help others

Raking a neighbor’s yard

Inviting someone in need to dinner

Christmas angel to a child in need

Ideas for younger members of our church family:

Helping mom with chores around the house

Picking up after yourself

Completing homework without being prompted

Helping a friend at school

Participating in events of local organizations to help others such as canned food drives, walks, collections.

Each week parishioners are asked to provide a brief note about the work(s) completed on a holly-shaped note located on the card table by the bulletin board in Byrne Hall. When 100 “good works” have been completed, the holly-shaped notes will be displayed as a wreath in Byrne Hall.

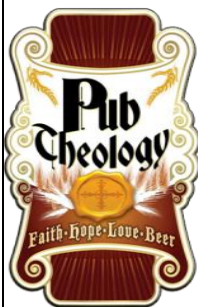
POLO SHIRT SALE

PLEASE SEE ELAINE IN BYRNE HALL AFTER THE SERVICE TO ORDER AND PREPAY FOR OUR 'NEW' ST. ANDREW'S POLO SHIRTS. CHECKS CAN BE MADE OUT TO: ST. ANDRE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH WITH POLO SHIRTS ON THE MEMO LINE. COST IS \$15 FOR S,M,L AND \$16.50 FOR XL AND ABOVE.

CHRISTMAS PAJAMA PARTY DEC. 14

FOYER GROUP B IS ASKED TO MEET AFTER THE SERVICE TODAY WITH KATHY LOPEZ FOR TIMES TO DECORATE THE TREE, SETUP ON SATURDAY MORNING, ETC. IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO HELP, PLEASE SEE THE LIST ON THE TABLE OR TALK WITH KATHY. THANKS, FAYE HUTT.

*Pub
Theology
Tomorrow
Night
6 p.m.
"The Place"
on
Harrison*



*Bring a
Bible-no
experience
necessary!*

OSK is requesting soap, shower gels, shampoo, conditioners, powder, tissues and any other items that parishioners would like to donate for our homebound for Christmas visits. Please leave any items in Byrne Hall. Thank you.



*Open Invitation to Everyone at St. Andrews
from The Gladstone's*

You and your spouse, significant other or friend are invited to our Christmas Party on Friday December 20th at our home located in "Grant's Mill" at 4701 Millstone Trail, Lynn Haven. Call Tom's cell phone, 850 303-3860, if you need some help locating our home.

Festivities will begin at 6:00 PM with Hors D'oeuvres and libations, dinner at 6:45, followed by our "Dirty Santa" gift exchange. The Gladstone's will supply all the paper products, wine, beer, soft drinks and coffee. We ask that you supply the fixings for the potluck dinner.

ALSO, PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR "DIRTY SANTA" GIFT. By definition, a "Dirty Santa" gift has a monetary value of less than \$10.00. It can also be a re-gifting of some noxious gift that you previously received that no sane person would ever need/want or use. The "gift exchange" will be a fun part of the evening.

We are really looking forward to December 20th and hope you will be able to join us for food, fellowship and fun! Please send regrets only by either email tghomes@comcast.net or call 265-2303 and leave a voice message on our answering machine.

Miriam and Tom Gladstone

Please keep the following in your prayers : Faye, Helen, Nancy, Maxine, John, Paul, Kylie, Marilyn, Michael, Maria, Mary, Charlotte, Sue, Evan, Ann, Keith, Jay, Colleen, Joy, Jane, Dee Dee, Donna, John, Maggie, Anna, Frank, Katie, Aubree, Sue, Colleen, Betty, Jimmy, Bubba, Mary Ruth, Lettie, Leslie, Sandra, Marilyn, Faye, Mary, Alexis, John, Evan, Cindy, LaVern, Daniel, Doug, Eli, Kyle, Bob, Sean, Tim, Libby, Marilyn, Sue, Michael, Kyle, Charlotte, Elizabeth, Colleen, Ryan, Joy, Jane, Anna, Maggie, Michela, Doris, Helen, James, Maggie, Pat, Frances, Judy, David, Jerry, Amy

We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad; Jeff, Bowe, James, Andrew, Kenneth, Evan, Ryan, Joe, Nate, Richard, David, Brian, Jason, Billy, Joseph, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan