St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

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765-653-3921 www.standrewsgreencastle.org

December 2012 Newsletter

Dear Sisters and Brothers at St. Andrew's,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! It is with a great deal of excitement that I write my first note to you as your new Rector! Every day since I received the call to serve at St. Andrew's, Christian and I have both looked forward with joy to the opportunity to live and work among you. The Search Committee could not have offered a more hospitable spirit, and I want to express the deep appreciation we have for the many ways you have already reached out to us to make us feel welcome.

Currently, we are beginning to say our goodbyes to our friends at St. Mark's, where we have been engaged for the past few years. It is a bittersweet experience, but the parishioners here have always shown such support to me – they are very happy that I have been called to be your Rector. Also, I am busy helping with the transition requiring a new chaplain to take my place at IU Health in Indianapolis, where I have initiated a pilot program offering spiritual care to outpatients. In the midst of all of that, we are starting to pack and looking at places to land in Greencastle … all very exciting!

We look forward to meeting all of you in the weeks to come. In the midst of this busy time, I have renewed my commitment to approach Advent with great intentionality. Advent calls us to "Prepare the way of the Lord" – to take inventory of the clutter in our lives that keeps us from full and open-hearted commitment to God. It can be a time of emptying ourselves in anticipation of a new gift of grace from God. My prayers are with you through this Advent season, in anticipation of new friendships, new ministry, and new ways forward together beginning in January!

Yours in Christ,

John Rumple

Children's Christmas Pageant

This year the children of St. Andrew's are once again tackling a new story for their Christmas Pageant.

It is called "The Elf on the Altar." Pam Smith has taken the now popular "The Elf on the Shelf" by Carol Aebersold and Chanda Bell and paired it with "Mary's Story" by Becky White. Santa has help when it comes to finding out a child's wish list of gifts and who has been naughty or nice. Find out how one elf goes on a quest to discover the true meaning of Christmas.

To top it all off, the entire pageant rhymes. Join us on **Sunday, December 9th, at 10:15AM** for this heart-warming story. It should put you in the Christmas spirit! It is not too late to join us in the preparations for the pageant. If you know a child willing to participate, let us know. Santa can never have too many elves. **Call Emily Knuth at (765) 720-5352 or Pam Smith at (765) 653-4273**.

St. Andrew's Holiday Fun and Fellowship

On Sunday, December 9th, from 4-6 PM, Narda and Page Cotton are opening their lovely home, at 1017 Barrington Drive, to our entire parish family for our annual Christmas Fun and Fellowship. Please bring and horse-devours to share and your beverage of choice. (Children are indeed welcome.)

Elizabeth Pifer, mother of Mary Mountz, will be 100 years old on December 28, 2012. She would love to receive birthday cards at her new address, 411 Elm St. in Greencastle. She taught school for over 60 years and joined St. Andrews when she came to Greencastle in 1999.

Concessions Sign Ups

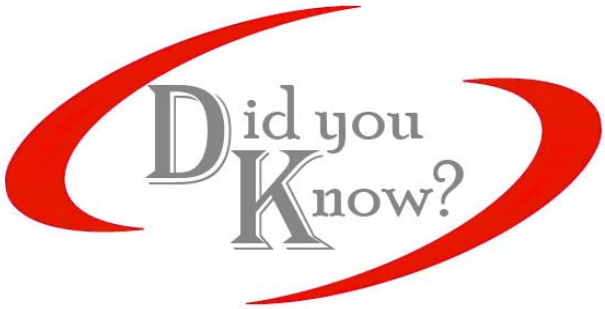
Not only does selling Concessions benefit the life and work of St. Andrew's, it is also a wonderful opportunity for fellowship – and perhaps some sore muscles the next day – or a vow to never eat popcorn again after popping it for hours on end!
Concessions are a ministry even if we sometimes don't think of it that way. It is a time for the Body of Christ to gather and to provide a service to the community. The proceeds from Concessions are used, in large part, to fund the outreach and other ministries of St. Andrew's.
Patti Harmless and Dennis Knuth are trying something new for this season of Concessions. We are utilizing an internet based volunteer program to streamline the sign up process. We know that you have busy calendars and you do not always have those calendars with you on Sunday mornings. You will receive emails on a periodic basis with the latest schedule and available sign ups. We will also have the traditional sign up sheets available on Sunday morning if you are less comfortable signing up online.
Please sign up and help support the important Concessions ministry.

Putnam County Non-Food Pantry Update

We have about 600 families on our computer list of those who have come to the distribution Saturdays. In addition we have about **20 new families come each distribution.** Each month we have somewhere between 120 and 150 families.

In addition to the generous support from our own Family Guild, in 2012 we have received a grant of $3000 from the Cathedral women, and $250 grant from the Episcopal Fund for Human Need. (Thanks to Joan Davis who writes these grants!) We receive from $200 to $500 a month from individual donations of parishioners and other members of the community.

This ministy has truly evolved and is engaging people outside of our St. Andrew's. The youth from St. Paul's Catholic church helped us out this summer. The women from Gobin will pack the bags in January. We have had sustained help from the DePauw community service group who have helped pick up supplies from Kroger, packed bags, and assisted with the Saturday distributions. They also collect donations from DePauw students twice a semester.



Pam Smith and the Sunday Scool children decorate lunch bags with stickers and stamps for special distribution Saturdays. At Halloween, the decorated bags contained a toothbrush, small toothpaste, an apple, granola bar, candy and a small decoration. For Christmas, the children will be decorating bags and they will cotain 4 to 6 homemade cookies, a candy cane, chocalate "money", a piece of fruit and a Christmas decoration.

Cookies Needed

We are making Christmas treat bags for the December distribution. We will pack the bags on Thursday, Dec 13 at 4 pm; the NFP distribution day is Saturday, Dec 15. We ask that people bring cookies to church on Dec 9. If you can't make it on Dec 9, we'd be glad either to meet you at the church after that date or pick up the cookies at your house.

Many thanks to all of you who have supported the Non-Food Pantry in so many ways! It takes all of us to keep it going, and you have been very generous.

Martha Rainbolt, Member of Non-Food Pantry Committee

Christmas Flowers

The Alter Guild is preparing for the Greening of the Church for Christmas. We will be gathering with every willing volunteer after the 10:15 service on December the 16th to ready the church for Christmas.

If you would like to make a donation for poinsettias, please complete the form below and either mail it to the church or put it in the offering plate by December 9th so we can include you in the bulletin. Many thanks.

Sue Murray & Connie Macy

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I/We would like to give to this year's Christmas Flower Fund with the enclosed/attached donation. Please include in the Christmas bulletin that this donation was given:

In Memory of: ____

In Remembrance of:____

In Honor of: ____

By: ____

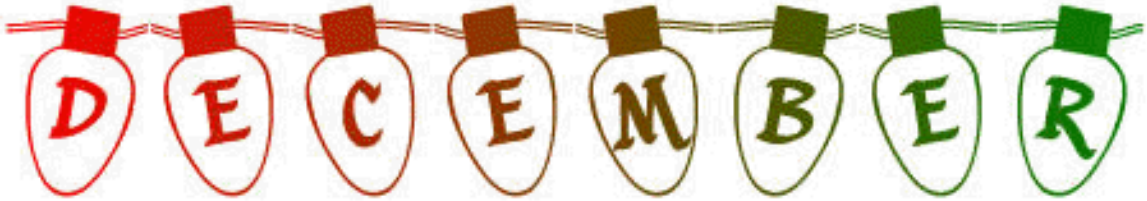
Worship Leaders

Our Liturgy is "the work of the people" – and yes, that's you! This means we need people to usher, to read (lector), to lead the prayers (intercessor), to acolyte or be a Lay Eucharistic Minister (serve the chalice) and to be the host at Coffee Hour. Our liturgy is the work of the people- that's you! Won't you help us? Sign up today or talk to a Vestry member about where your gifts and talents might find a place in our worship service.

Check the website (standrewsgreencastle.org) and "What We Do" for a description of the various types of ministries that are available.

SERVING ST. ANDREW'S

	December 2	**December 9**	**December 16**	**December 23**	**December 24**	**December 25**	**December 30**
Lector	Orcenith Smith	Junelle Dreyer	Jenny Heithaus	Deb Smith	Volunteer	Volunteer	Joe Heithhaus
Intercessor	Jim Ensley	Sue Murray	Diana Meo	Terry Noble	Volunteer	Volunteer	Joyce Mayer
Eucharistic Ministers	Bob Haymaker Terry Noble	Gwen Morris Joe Heithaus	Junelle Dreyer Bob Haymaker	Gwen Morris Terry Noble	Volunteer	Volunteer	Bob Haymaker Junelle Dreyer
Ushers	Nick Mourouzis	Page Cotton	Curtis Beck	Rainbolt & Huffman	Volunteer	Volunteer	Jim Ensley
Acolytes	Logan Beck Emma Tobin	Paul Heithaus Ruth Heithaus	Alec Davis Rebecca Moore	Logan Beck Emma Tobin	Volunteer	Volunteer	Alec Davis Ruth Heithaus
Coffee Hour	Deb & Mark Smith	Sue & Dave Murray	Joan & Scott Davis	Patti & Tony Harmless			Deb & Curtis Beck
Nursery	Lily Spencer						
Sacristan	Narda Cotton						



Events in December

December 2	10:15 am	Holy Eucharist- Advent I
December 9	10:15 am	Holy Eucharist – Advent II Children's Pageant
	4 - 6 pm	Annual Christmas Fun & Fellowship - Page and Narda Cotton's house (1017 Barrington Dr). Please bring and horse-devours to share and your beverage of choice. Children are indeed welcome.
December 15	1 – 3 pm	Non-Food Pantry Distribution
December 16	10:15 am	Holy Eucharist- Advent III Lessons and Carols Greening of the Church
December 17	6:30 pm	Vestry Meeting – Advent House
December 23	10:15 am	Holy Eucharist- Advent IV
December 24	5:30 pm	Christmas Eve/Holy Eucharist – Children's Service
	10:30 pm	Christmas Eve/Holy Eucharist with Musical Prelude
December 25		Christmas Day – NO SERVICE
December 30	10:15 am	Holy Eucharist
January 6, 2013	10:15 am	Epiphany/Holy Eucharist – New Ministry with Rev. John Rumple