

# THE PARISH *M*ESSENGER

December 2017

## ADVENT 2017

### WEDNESDAYS IN ADVENT (DEC. 6, 13, & 20)

- 5:45 P.M. - TAIZE IN  
THE CHURCH

### ADVENT 2, DEC. 12

- PRE-CAROLING  
LUNCH IN ROOM 325  
FOLLOWING THE  
10:30 A.M. SERVICE
- 12:30 P.M. –  
CAROLING AT  
LOCAL NURSING  
HOMES

### ADVENT 3, DEC. 17

- 5:00 P.M. – LESSONS  
AND CAROLS

RECEPTION  
FOLLOWING IN  
CANTERBURY  
HALL

CHILDCARE  
UPON REQUEST

### ADVENT 4, DEC. 24

- 9:00 A.M. – HOLY  
EUCCHARIST – RITE II

NO EDUCATION  
HOUR; ONE  
MORNING  
SERVICE ONLY

NURSERY  
AVAILABLE

## ADVENT BEGINS!

On Sunday, December 3, the First Sunday of Advent, our St. Andrew's parish family gathered together during Education Hour to enjoy an All Parish Breakfast and Advent activities in Canterbury Hall. We decorated the Advent Angel tree, colored Christmas cards for those who are incarcerated over Christmas, made snowflakes for soldiers, decorated (and ate!) cookies, created Advent wreaths to take home, and participated in a few projects for the Pet Food Pantry. A special story presentation helped us begin our journey together to Bethlehem, St. Nicholas stopped by for a visit, and the McCloskey family lit the first candle on our Advent wreath. Thank you to all who contributed and participated.

Happy Advent, Everyone!



## HERE WE GO A-CAROLING! Sunday, December 10



Members of the parish, choir, and children & youth of St. Andrew's are invited to carol at several long-term healthcare facilities in State College on Sunday, December 10. We will sing together at three sites: Juniper Village at Brookline, Hearthside Nursing Home, and one other. Everyone planning to go caroling should meet in Room 325 immediately after the 10:30 a.m. worship service. A lunch will be provided, carpooling will be organized, and then we will leave the church by 12:30 p.m. We should be finished

caroling between 2– 2:30 p.m. You may drive yourself if you need to leave early. We had a wonderful experience last year, to add to the many wonderful interactions over the years with the residents of the places we visit. This can be a very moving and special time for all of us. So much has been given to us - join us as we share our joy with our local community.

## CHRISTMAS COOKIE FUNDRAISER Sunday, December 17

If cookie baking is part of your tradition, and you would like to help the Journey Youth program with their annual Christmas Cookie Fundraiser, please complete this [donation form](#) and drop it off in the office; or, contact chairperson Betha Christopher or Darlene Nordoff.



Your labelled cookie donations can be dropped off in the Canterbury Hall kitchen on Friday, December 15, from 3:45 – 6:00 p.m. or Saturday, December 16, by 9:00 a.m.

Cookies will be available for sale on Sunday, December 17, after 8 & 10:30 a.m. worship services, during Education Hour, and if there are any left, before the reception for the Service of Lessons and Carols. Loads of cookies in every box = great gift giving, too! Thank you for your support!

## FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS Sunday, December 17, 5:00 p.m.



The annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be presented on Sunday, December 17th, at 5 p.m. It is patterned after the Christmas Eve service held in King's College Chapel. The Festival was introduced in 1918 to bring a more imaginative approach to worship. It was first broadcast in 1928 and is now broadcast to millions of people around the world. It has become a staple of Episcopal churches in the United States. It has even spread to other denominations. Readings are followed by carols and anthems from the choirs and carols sung by the congregation. Both the Youth and Adult choirs will sing for this service. Music includes works by Richard Shepherd, David Ashley White, Bob Chilcott, Simon Lindley, Charles Wood, Gordon Lawson, and William Mathias.

Christmas Eve, 6 p.m.: The Youth Choir will sing music by George Frederic Handel and Richard Shepherd.

Christmas Eve, 10 p.m.: Preservice music will begin at 9:30. Featured will be the MAGNIFICAT by Francesco Durante. There will also be music by Nicholas White, John Joubert, Harold Darke, Charles Wood and David Lasky.

## Lessons and Carols Reception Sunday, December 17, 6:30 p.m.

Parish Life will host a festive reception for all in Canterbury Hall following the annual festival of Lessons and Carols on December 17. This is usually our biggest, most beloved party of the year, so be sure you are a part of it! You can contribute by donating food or money for the reception, or by signing up to set up or clean up [Sign up here](#) or contact [Julie Kwasnica](#) if you can help.



## OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIVING

### ST. ANDREW'S ANGEL TREE

This past Sunday we placed angel tags, made from the wish-lists of the youth at Stormbreak, the staff at the Burrowes Street Youth Haven, and our Pet Food Bank host Viki Stumbers on the Angel Tree in Canterbury Hall. Thank you to Julie and Anna Kwasnica for making the angel gift tags.

**Please take an angel gift tag, (or one or two!) and return the angel, along with your gift(s) by Sunday, December 17. Please secure the angel gift tag onto the unwrapped gift or house donation. You may wrap the gifts for specific girls at Stormbreak – thank you. There will be a box every Sunday during Advent in which to place your donation, OR submit it to the church office during the week. We hope that you will support this important ministry, as both houses and the Pet Food Bank are in need.**

**Stormbreak** is a girls' group home that provides dependent and delinquent girls (ages 12-19) with the opportunity to reengage themselves in their own lives. Through real-life experiences in the home and in the community, girls have opportunities to improve their moral reasoning, self-control and independent skills. The Stormbreak home provides a highly structured, yet nurturing environment, for up to nine girls who are working towards permanency with family, foster care or other permanent living. A focus on the individual is the basis of the program's success. Positive change for the individual and family is the goal. Your gifts to the girls are very much appreciated.

**Burrowes Street Youth Haven** is a voluntary shelter housing homeless, runaways or at-risk youth (ages 12-17) for a maximum of 15 days. Services include 24-hour hotline assistance for youth and their families; assistance with immediate crisis needs such as food, shelter and clothing; therapeutic shelter care for youth; drop-in care, including counseling, snacks and activities; and individual, family and group counseling. Your gifts to the operation of the house are greatly appreciated.

**The Pet Food Bank** at St. Andrew's is a satellite location, which services approximately 15 clients every Tuesday morning. Our new host Viki Stumbers is a welcoming and supportive advocate.



## PET FOOD PANTRY

Help us make Christmas Merry and Bright for all of God's creatures!

In addition to the items on the Angel Tree, the Faith Centre Pet Food Pantry at St. Andrew's is preparing Christmas boxes for our neighbors in need. For the next 3 weeks, they are collecting the following items: cat litter, pouches of chewy cat and dog treats, white ping pong balls, new or gently-used tennis balls and collars, bags of dry cat (not kitten) food, and cans of wet cat and dog food. They will also happily receive special items like beds and pet blankets, and small treats for human owners (hot chocolate, Christmas candy, etc.) Boxes will be distributed as Christmas surprises on Tuesday, December 19, so they need all donations by noon on Sunday, December 17. The Pet Food Pantry thanks you for showing the love of God to our two- and four-footed neighbors.



## OUT OF THE COLD CHRISTMAS GOODIE BAGS



St. Andrew's will shelter and feed homeless guests from the Out of the Cold Program from March 26 to April 8 this year. Mark your calendars – there will be opportunities to help and more information will be coming.

In the meantime, the churches that are participating in Out of the Cold are getting together to make Christmas goodie bags for each homeless guest to receive on Christmas Eve. St. Andrew's contribution is a \$10 gift card from Sheetz for each bag. If you would like to contribute, you can either get the card and take it to the church office, or make a monetary contribution with "Out of the Cold" on the memo line of the check and put it in the offering plate.

## IHS BELL RINGING AT MEYER DAIRY

Thank you to all the generous people who have volunteered to staff the wishing well at Meyer Dairy. We still have lots of opportunities, especially in the morning and later evening. If you can spare a couple hours to support HIS, please sign up below, on your own or with a friend! Bell ringing may chill your hands, but it will warm your heart.

[Wednesday, December 13](#)

[Monday, December 18](#)



## St. Andrew's Vestry Update

### November 2017

Vestry met on Monday evening, November 20. The Finance Committee reported that although the net income for the month of October was in the red, the overall year-to-date operating income continues to be positive. The vestry urges everyone to be diligent in meeting pledge commitments. As the season for holiday travel begins, please do not neglect your pledged contributions to St. Andrew's. Pledge contributions may be placed in the collection plates during the Sunday services, or they may be mailed directly to the church office. Your continued support is needed and much appreciated.

The Finance Committee is working on the preparation of the budget for 2018, and as noted in the past, a major portion of St. Andrew's income is dependent on pledges. If you have not already done so, please prayerfully consider your financial support for the parish and return your pledge card. The many ministries at St. Andrew's can be provided only through the generous support of the St. Andrew's parish family.

Fr. Jeff announced his plans to move his family to State College during the week of December 13. They will move into Trinity House until their house in Virginia is sold and they find their own home in the State College area. Please warmly welcome Fr. Jeff's family and their two dogs when they arrive. A few relatively minor modifications will be made to Trinity House to better accommodate Fr. Jeff's family.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rick Hoover,  
Clerk of the Vestry

### ST. ANDREW'S FINANCIAL REPORT

October 2017

	OCTOBER	Total for 2017	% of Budget	2017 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 27,832	\$ 361,572	78%	\$ 462,596
Total Monthly Income	\$ 31,277	\$ 387,911	78%	\$ 500,500
Monthly Expense	\$ 44,643	\$ 381,557	78%	\$ 492,331
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (13,366)	\$ 6,354		\$ 8,169

Submitted by Sue Stephenson, Treasurer

### Vestry and Convention Delegate Elections 2018

According to The Episcopal Church website, the vestry is "the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property." The basic responsibilities are to "help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed; to select the rector; to ensure effective organization and planning; and to manage resources and finances." As the end of the calendar year approaches, four vestry terms at St. Andrew's will also expire.

Once a year, our Diocese gathers together to pray, listen, learn, and conduct the business of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Each parish may send at least one elected delegate who, along with all clergy of our Diocese, form the voting delegation. The exact number of delegates is based on the number of parishioners registered on the parish rolls. Accordingly, St. Andrew's will elect and send six delegates to the 148th Annual Diocesan Convention which will be held on October 10-11, 2018 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania. The Vestry has approved reimbursement of hotel costs associated with traveling to the convention site up to the amount of the discounted convention rate, so financial constraints should not deter anyone from serving as a delegate.

To be eligible to serve on vestry **or** as a convention delegate, you must be baptized, at least 16 years old, and a confirmed or received member of St. Andrew's who supports the parish through regular financial

contributions. Nominations for vestry members **and** convention delegates are due by Friday, December 15, 2017. You may self-nominate or nominate someone else. All nominees will be vetted by the Nominating Committee, chaired by Junior Warden, Sharon Rovansek. Please make sure your nominee is willing to serve and, for convention delegates, will be available on October 10-11, 2018 before submitting his/her name. You may submit nominations through the Warden's email below or in writing to the church office to Sharon's attention

Voting will take place on Sunday, January 28, 2018, with results being announced that evening at the Annual Meeting. We will soon publish a list of those eligible to serve on vestry, as a convention delegate, or vote in the election. Please check the list when available to make sure your name is on it. This will give us time to resolve issues beforehand.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please seek out former vestry members, delegates, or Fr. Jeff.

Thank you very much for your continued prayers and support for the vestry, and please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns. The vestry is in place to serve you and St. Andrew's.

In gratitude,

Linda Mace, Senior Warden and Sharon Rovansek, Junior Warden

[Wardens@standrewsc.org](mailto:Wardens@standrewsc.org)

## PARISHIONERS' MINISTRY

Parishioner's Ministry administers a small fund for people going through some kind of financial emergency. Its stewards work closely with local social agencies to provide help with rent, electric bills, home repair, etc. Stewards are elected annually for a three-year term. They must be compassionate, communicate well, attend to details, respect confidentiality, and be able to come to the church office during weekday hours.

If you wish to serve, contact Sharon Rovansek, Junior Warden and Head of Nominating Committee. If you want more information about Parishioners' Ministry, contact Gloria Meder at [gmmeder@gmail.com](mailto:gmmeder@gmail.com) or talk to her on Sunday morning.



## SAVE THE DATE

Celebration of a New Ministry for

**The Rev. Jeffrey A. Packard**

Sixth Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

**Tuesday, January 23, 7:00 p.m.**

Reception following



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Godly Play (ages three to fourth grade) 9:15 a.m.– Room 336

Grade 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> Class – 9:15 a.m. – Room 131

Children's Chapel – 10:30 a.m. – Room 338

Both the Children's Chapel and 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade church school class have been using the lectionary-based curriculum from the Episcopal Digital Network. Themes from the Old and New Testaments covered in class in November were: Serving the Lord, Walking with God, Being Prepared, Being a Leader, and Using our Gifts. Thank you to Katie Gaines who led a special Thanksgiving class on November 19 in Children's Chapel. In Godly Play, the children participated in story presentations about The Ark & Tent for God, the Ark and Temple, and the Exile. Thank you to Jenna and Tina Ruberto for leading a special All Saints' class on November 5 during Godly Play and to Tiffany Muller for the 5<sup>th</sup>/6<sup>th</sup> grade class. Thank you to Fr Jeff for gathering the children for a Children's Sermon on November 5 to honor All Saints, and on Sunday, December 3, with some help from St. Nicholas!



## Journey Program

Journey Jr. Adventurers (Grades 7, 8 & 9)

Journey High School

Journey Jr. Adventurers (Grades 7, 8 & 9) covered *Decisions, Decisions* and *Understanding Reconciliation* (knowing when to ask for help when mistakes are made) during class. They also participated in a service project by planting daffodils at Sidney Friedman Park! Thank you to chairs Kathy Hickner and Julie Wunz for leading the "Pies for Pilgrims" fundraiser. Just over \$660 was earned from selling pies and beeswax candles. Many thanks to those who purchased pies to then donate to the Community Café Thanksgiving dinner.

Both Journey Jr. and High School are invited for lunch and caroling at nursing homes on Sunday, December 10, and to Brit Shalom on Friday, December 15, for the lighting of their first Hanukkah candle. Look for more information in Journey emails.

**An Invitation!**  
**Brit Shalom Synagogue**  
620 E. Hamilton Avenue  
**Save the Date!**  
**Friday, December 15**

**6 p.m. Discussion - 7 p.m. Service - 8:30ish Reception**

Brit Shalom has invited both Journey youth groups to attend its first service of Hanukkah on Friday, December 15. Thank you to leader Ted Christopher for arranging this new opportunity to learn and to worship in community.



**COMPASSIONATE LIFE**

First and Third Thursdays  
December 7 and 21  
9:30 a.m. ~ Room 325

On Thursday, November 2, the women of Compassionate Life shared what was going on in their lives! It was a time of laughter and compassion; hopes, dreams and common life realities; connection and coffee! On November 16, Ginny Poorman from Hearts for the Homeless visited our group to talk about the frustrations of trying to get help for the homeless student population, and the success and challenges of purchasing a house in Bellefonte to create a home for some of her clients, whether permanent or temporary. Women brought their ideas... and socks, undershirts, toiletries, etc., to support Hearts for the Homeless – thank you. For our unusual fifth Thursday meeting on November 30, the women colored Christmas cards for the incarcerated, made 3D snowflakes to give to our local nursing homes when St. Andrew's goes caroling, and decorated a Christmas tree for Room 325.



Our December meetings will be held on December 7 and 21. Look for an email about our December 7 meeting. On Thursday, December 21, participate in a fun and caring tradition – a white elephant gift exchange! Select something from home that you no longer need, but know another woman in the group might like; wrap it and bring it on Thursday, December 21. Our next meeting in the New Year will be on Thursday, January 4. We will be reading the new book Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship written by Gregory Boyle, an American Jesuit

priest and the founder of Homeboy Industries in Los Angeles, the largest gang-intervention, rehabilitation, and re-entry program in the world. He has received several honors, and will be donating all net proceeds from his new book to Homeboy Industries. Join us! We look forward to praying, sharing, connecting, and drinking coffee/tea with you. Contact Darlene Nordoff for more information.

## PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Saturday, December 9, 12:00 p.m., Room 119

The St. Andrew's Prayer Quilt Ministry will meet on December 9 to complete 2 infant baptismal quilts, and to put the finishing touches on at least 2 adult prayer quilts. If you think you would like more information about the Prayer Quilt Ministry, or if you would like to request a prayer quilt for a family member or friend, please call Michele Marini at 814-574-9639

## MEN'S GROUP

Monday, December 11, 7:30 p.m. at Otto's

Put on your holiday sweater (or not) and join us for an extra-festive holiday edition of the Men's Group as we gather at Otto's for our last meeting of 2017.

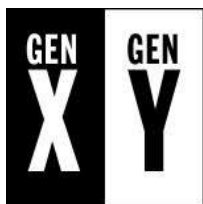
We hope to see you. All are welcome, all matter of discussion is welcome, and you do not have to consume alcohol to participate. If you have any questions, or would like to be added to the email list for reminders, contact Ron Rovanseck at [rrovanseck@pacewater.com](mailto:rrovanseck@pacewater.com)



## ST. ANDREW'S GENERATION X/Y GROUP

Wednesday, December 13, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Kevin Lowe and Sarah Klinetob's house, 400 Oakhurst Lane



St. Andrew's Generation X/Y Group is forming! If you identify as a young adult (roughly between the ages of 25 and 45, but all are welcome – no carding at the door!) you're invited. We will have a test run gathering on December 13. Children are invited, too. No RSVP needed; email [Kevin](mailto:Kevin) with any questions.

## Friday Film Series

December 15 – Canterbury Hall

6:30 Snacks, 7:00 Film

### *It's a Wonderful Life*

Join us for this holiday classic! After George Bailey (James Stewart) wishes he had never been born, an angel is sent to earth to make George's wish come true. George starts to realize how many lives he has changed and impacted and how they would be different if he was never there. Remember, every time a bell rings...oh you'll just have to see it for yourself!

The film is free and all are welcome!



## WOMEN'S GROUP

Tuesday, December 19, 7:30 p.m.

Ann Shepherd's house, 1245 Westerly Parkway, Condo 48

The St. Andrew's Group will meet at Ann Shepherd's house for our December meeting. All women of the parish are invited to attend. Please contact Ann at 237-5759 to RSVP and for parking instructions.

## COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Café is looking forward to a white Christmas! Thanksgiving was a great success with over 200 people served. We actually ran out of seating which is a testament to how welcoming St. Andrew's is, not only to this ministry but to all visitors.



Next up, will be our traditional Christmas Feast to be held on December 21<sup>st</sup>. We will serve at our usual time and of course, Santa will be making his annual visit. To that end, we would like to give a small gift to those 18 and younger. If you would like to help with this, please drop off an unwrapped gift (no more than \$10.00) in the church office. We are also looking for donations of Christmas cookies. Cookies can be dropped off anytime that week. They can be placed on the counter or if they need refrigeration, there will be room reserved in the refrigerators. Remember to make extra for Santa and his official cookie tasters.

On a more practical note, we had the ducts and hood over the ovens professionally cleaned. This needs to be done once a year, and keeps us current on all codes for a commercial kitchen set by the Borough.

As always, if you would like to learn more about the Café or to volunteer, please contact Ron Rovanseck at [rrovanseck@pacewater.com](mailto:rrovanseck@pacewater.com). The Café is open for business from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. every Thursday. The meal is free, everyone is welcome, and donations are accepted, but they are not expected.

## KNITTING GROUP

Sunday, January 14, 11:45 a.m., Room 325



The Knitting Ministry will begin meeting in the new year. If you knit, crochet, or would like to learn, you are welcome! Mark your calendar for January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8, and May 13 in Room 325 after the 10:30 service. We'll work on preparing hats, scarves, baby blankets and those adorable Peace Pals from [www.knitting4peace.org](http://www.knitting4peace.org), a wonderful organization that distributes useful handknits in the developing world. Bring a project to work on and a snack or treat to share. Even if you can't attend the meetings but would like to participate, you may knit/crochet at home and bring finished work to the Parish Office. For more information, contact Anne Hoag at [anne.hoag@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hoag@gmail.com).

## BOOK GROUP

The St. Andrew's Book Group will **NOT** meet in December due to the holidays.



The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 24, at 7 p.m. If you would like to get a head start or add the book to your Christmas list, the book selection for January is *If the Oceans Were Ink: An Unlikely Friendship and a Journey to the Heart of the Quran* by Carla Power. In this 2015 memoir, journalist Power tells how she and a Muslim friend, Sheikh Mohammad Akram Nadwi, spent a year exploring the Quran and Islam.



## CHRISTMAS 2017

### Christmas Eve Services

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Family Service with Nativity  
Youth Choir  
Nursery open for family use  
(unstaffed)

9:30 p.m. Carols and Anthems

10:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

### Christmas Day

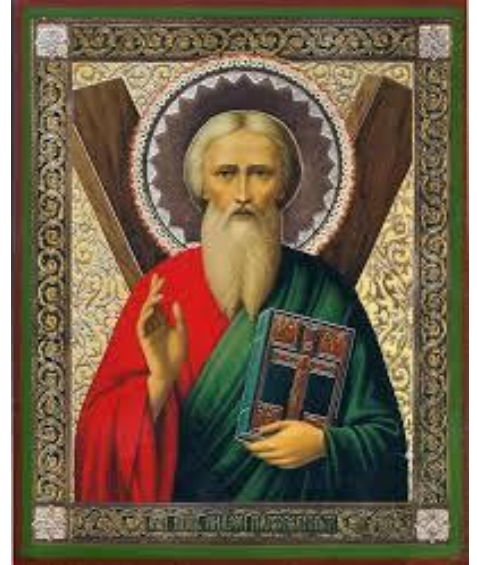
10:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist, Rite I



## From Fr. Packard: *Andrew: Fisher of People*

Peter is one of the inner circle, along with James and John. He was privy to the transfiguration and was asked to join Jesus in prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus told him that he would give him the keys to his kingdom. Peter is known as first among the apostles. And Andrew is known as Peter's brother.

Andrew, our patron saint, may not have had as good a press agent as his brother Peter, but he was certainly a vital early follower of Jesus, an apostle named on every list in the New Testament, and a good example for us the members of St. Andrew's in State College. The synoptic Gospels record Jesus calling the two brothers together. Peter, then called Simon, and his brother Andrew, were casting their nets in the Sea of Galilee when Jesus invited them to follow him and told them he would make them fishers of people. We are told they immediately left their nets, the means of their livelihood as fishermen and symbols of their old lives, and followed Jesus. John's Gospel tells the story a little differently. In John's version, Andrew is one of two disciples of John the Baptist who decide to follow Jesus one day when they are introduced to him by John on the shores of the Jordan. Andrew, after spending the afternoon with Jesus and the other unnamed disciple, immediately goes and finds his brother and tells him, "We have found the Messiah." Andrew brings his brother Simon to meet Jesus, who then gives him the name Cephas (Aramaic for stone or rock). We know him better as Peter, which is derived from the Greek word *Petros* meaning the same thing.



We don't get a lot of biographical information about Andrew. Nor does he do or say much in the Gospels. However, he is good at bringing people to Jesus. Later in John's Gospel when confronted by a large crowd of hungry people the disciples seem perplexed as to how to feed them. Andrew brings a young boy to Jesus who has five barley loaves and two fish. We all remember what Jesus does with those few scraps of food. Thereby Andrew is instrumental in the feeding of the five thousand, but I think more importantly he continues his role as one who brings people to Jesus.

There are other traditions about Andrew, like he took the Gospel to Scythia after the resurrection—an area between Europe and Asia encompassing parts of modern Iran—and that he was crucified on an "X" shaped cross. Most importantly for us, I believe, is that Andrew fulfilled the mission first given to him by Jesus. He became a fisher of people, starting perhaps with his own brother. We at St. Andrew's have the same mission from Jesus. If we learn nothing more from our patron saint we should learn that a faithful life as a disciple of Jesus is one marked by the constant effort to bring others to him.

Andrew's saint's day on November 30 unfortunately always falls near both Christ the King Sunday and the first Sunday in Advent. So, it cannot be celebrated on a Sunday without coopting one of these important days. Still I encourage you to recognize the day, if only with a thought about your own efforts at fishing for people and the collect for the day:

*Almighty God, who gave such grace to your apostle Andrew that he readily obeyed the call of your Son Jesus Christ, and brought his brother with him: Give us, who are called by your Holy Word, grace to follow him without delay, and to bring those near to us into his gracious presence; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and for ever. Amen.*