



December 2015

From the Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

This past week we celebrated “Thanksgiving Day”. The food was great; I had a restful nap, watched football and spent time with family and friends. All in all, a wonderful time.

There were many prior years, when I would not have been positive about my “Thanksgiving experience”. I might not have known what I ‘expected’, but what I experienced wasn’t “it”. Writing this column is helping me to recognize how much I take for granted.

As I have reflected on what has changed over the years, I realize it was my ‘attitude’. Objectively, the food, family and opportunities were similar. Today, I am more ‘grateful’. Today, I try to give ‘thanks’, no matter what is taking place.

Before, if everything was going well, I would take it for granted. I was ‘entitled’ to those good experiences. If life wasn’t going well, I would focus upon what I lacked. I had little gratitude.

As Christians, each Sunday, when the sacrament of bread and wine are blessed and eaten, we take part in giving thanks, “Thanksgiving”, the Eucharist. As we receive this Holy meal, we are also celebrating Jesus presence in our lives.

Every day, we are called to recognize that everything, even our breath, is a gift. When we celebrate what God is doing, we experience hope, even in the darkest of moments. It is difficult to look at “problems” as opportunities to grow in faith. But that ‘truth’ is a vital part of my life, as it is also part of St. Andrew’s story.

Time and time again, our parish has faced and overcome adversity. Those times often seemed more than the people of St. Andrew’s could overcome. There were times with no priest, times without enough money, times when there were no children and few new faces. Fear was rampant and hope was scarce.

What unifies those challenging times were parishioner’s prayerful actions. We were never alone to face the world. God will never abandon us individually, nor abandon this parish.

Times may be tough, but there is hope. As we enter into the season of Advent, we are again reminded of God’s presence. Emmanuel, “God is with us”, and that we are never abandoned.

Peace,

Tom+

Advent and Christmas Season Services

Advent Taize Services

Saturday, December 5th, 12th, and 19th

5:00pm

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24th

5:30pm – Rite II with Children’s Pageant,
all children are welcome to participate
(Coffee and cookies between services)

8:00pm – Rite II with Carols

Christmas Day

Friday, December 25th

10:00am – Rite II without music

First Sunday After Christmas

Sunday, December 27th

10:30am — Lessons and Carols

Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 10th

10:30am – Rite II with Baptism

(Please contact Fr. Tom if you or someone
you know wants to be Baptized)



St. John’s Choir Presents a service Lessons & Carols, Sunday December 13th at 4:00 pm

Come celebrate the coming of the King! Readings and anthems by St. John’s Choir, and guest singers from the Southwest Convocation, under the direction of Ken Breeden, along with favorite carols and hymns make for a meaningful Advent worship.

St. Andrew's with Bishop Wolfe Honored Deacon John Roper's Ministry





Remember in Prayer Those Serving Our Country, Especially those below



Scott	Gary & Debbie Oehmke's nephew	Nathan	John Nicholas' friend
Daniel	Friend of Ropers	Brad	Friend of Don & Sarah Morrow
Collin	Former Parishioner	Diane	Parishioner
Scott	Gary & Debbie Oehmke's son in law	Mark	Jenniffer Dorsett & Martha Mason's son
KC	Doyn Wiler's nephew		

Have You Ever Wondered...



Advent Wreath: A circle of greenery, marked by four candles that represent the four Sundays of the season of Advent. An additional candle is lit as each new Sunday is celebrated in Advent. Advent wreaths are used both in churches and in homes for devotional purposes. The candles may be blue, purple, or lavender, depending on local custom. Some Advent wreaths include a white candle in the center known as the "Christ Candle," which is lit on Christmas Eve.



Sunday December 20 – Congregation decorates for Christmas after the service

Sunday January 3 – Parishioners take home poinsettias



Mark your Calendar!

**St. Andrew's Annual Meeting and Lunch
Sun, January 17 immediately after service.**



Vestry Meeting

Sunday, December 13th
after Gift Wrapping Event,
in the Large Classroom

Outreach



OUTREACH COMMITTEE CHRISTMAS GIFT COLLECTIONS



Many of the residents of Westview of Derby, Long Term Care Facility don't have family or are forgotten during this time of year. The Outreach Committee is requesting specific gifts for them. **Please pull a gift need from the Senior's bowl located in the Guild Hall.** Please wrap the gift with their name on a tag and **return to St. Andrew's by December 13th.**

Also, this year, after coordinating with the social workers at Oaklawn, Cooper and Pleasantview schools, their 1st graders' need **hats, gloves, and pencils**, with a **candy cane** as a treat. **Please pull a gift need from the children's bowl located in the Guild Hall** and then join us to wrap these gifts after the church service **December 13th (make sure your gifts are here).** We have giftwrap and tape, we just need your helping hands.



**Youth Group Outreach
handed out socks and tissues
to those participating in
St. John's Sandwich Saturday
event November 14th.**



Derby Food Pantry Collection Items

Needed For November:

Muffin Mix, Canned Tomatoes, & Tomato Sauce



Youth news

>> **Spring parish packets are in the mail.** Watch for an envelope from Episcopal Diocese of Kansas Youth Ministries, with posters for all of our spring events, including camp. Please post these in your church where youth will see them.

>> **Miqra registration is now open!** MIQRA (meek-rah) is a weekend retreat that focuses on the Bible and allows teens to discover what's in it, why they should care and how to read it. This year's educational focus will be on the Gospels and Acts. **When:** Saturday, Jan. 16, 1 p.m. to Monday, Jan. 18, 10:30 a.m. **Where:** Grace Episcopal Cathedral, 701 SW 8th Ave., Topeka (senior high) and St. David's Church in Topeka (junior high students will be bussed there and back for the weekend). **Who:** Grades 6-12. **Fee:** \$60 (if this is someone's very first youth event, they pay only \$15!). **Priority deadline:** Thursday, Dec. 31 (price increases by \$15 after this date). **Registration forms:** Youth and adults can sign-up for Miqra here: https://edok.formstack.com/forms/miqra_2016

>> **Youth: make a MegaCamp commercial and maybe win a camp scholarship.** We're looking for a video that will promote camp to the parishes of the diocese. We are seeking videos with a clear message that will appeal to youth, parents and clergy. Entries will be judged by a team of youth workers. At least one person will be selected to win a \$140 scholarship to camp!



Daughters of the King prayer retreat planned for February in Olathe. All members of chapters of the Daughters of the King in the diocese are invited to a prayer retreat on Saturday, Feb. 6 at St. Aidan's, 14301 South Black Bob Road in Olathe. The event is sponsored by the church's St. Bridget's Chapter. The day of prayer and fellowship will begin at 8:30 a.m. and conclude at 2 p.m. Further details will be available soon, but save the date now. More information can be obtained from Marcia Streepy, St. Bridget's co-president, at marciastreepy@att.net.



Need to buy a gift? 'Gifts for Life' helps people in need. If you're in search of a gift for someone who doesn't need another "thing," why not consider something from Episcopal Relief & Development's Gifts for Life catalog? This program allows givers to purchase livestock, clean water, mosquito nets, vocational training and other necessities of life on behalf of people in need around the world. And, ER&D's matching gift challenge means money spent on Gifts for Life purchases will be matched, up to the \$750,000 total limit. Read more online at <http://www.episcopalrelief.org/what-you-can-do/gifts-for-life>.

The Jesse Tree

"A shoot will spring forth from the stump of Jesse, and a branch out of his roots."
Isaiah 11:1



Multi-Generational Advent Activity at Coffee Hour

Come join us as we create a Jesse Tree during Advent in the Guild Hall during the Coffee Hour. The Jesse Tree represents Jesus' family tree. The name is taken from Isaiah 11:1, in which Jesus is referred to as a shoot coming up from the stump of Jesse, the father of David. The ornaments on the Jesse tree tell of Jesus' ancestors, and of the events leading to Jesus' birth. All ages are encouraged to join in the fun.

Please Pray for those on the St. Andrew's Prayer Chain

Bob, Gage & Blouin, for continued healing

Herb & Earline, Martha Mason's uncle and aunt, for healing

Theresa, Martha Mason's co-worker's wife, for healing.

Joe & Deanna, friends of Margaret Kinkead, for acceptance and strength

Ester & Joanna, Chad Devena's mother and sister, for healing & strength

Janet, parishioner, for healing & strength

Rush, Danny & Janet Miller's grandson, for continued healing

Dakotah, friend of Martha Mason, for healing & strength

Ward, friend of Margaret Kinkead, for proper diagnosis & treatment

Martha, Parishioner, for proper diagnosis & healing

Amy, Mollie, Rhett & Jeff, friends of Don Morrow, for comfort & strength

Jack, JaNell Clark's brother, for healing

Namuuna, foreign ex-change student that lived with Martha Brohammer, for healing

Isaac & Family, child of John Nicholas' friend, for healing

Names remain on the parish prayer list for thirty days unless requested for a longer period. All are encouraged to extend a person's request for prayers as long as is felt necessary.

Are you looking for a way to remember the Reason for the Season?

Maybe this Advent Calendar can help.

<http://www.coffeecupsandcrayons.com/kindness-is-the-best-way-to-countdown-to-christmas/>

Random Acts of Christmas Kindness 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Give a compliment to a friend.	2 Tape change to a vending machine.	3 Make a card for a soldier.	4 Take coffee to your teacher.	5 Pick up litter.
6 Send a paper hug to someone you love.	7 Tell silly jokes to make someone laugh.	8 Give someone a hug coupon.	9 Donate a book to the library or hospital.	10 Leave a happy note for someone to find.	11 Do yard work for a neighbor.	12 Donate toys to your favorite charity.
13 Candy cane bomb a parking lot.	14 Call a faraway friend or relative to say hello.	15 Make a thank you for your librarian.	16 Do a chore for someone in your family.	17 Donate food to your local food pantry.	18 Leave a popcorn surprise in a DVD rental machine.	19 Smile at everyone you see today.
20 Take supplies to the animal shelter.	21 Pay for a stranger's coffee.	22 Give treats to the mail carrier.	23 Feed the birds.	24 Take cookies to the fire station.	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Holy Days (Holy Women, Holy Men, Celebrating the Saints)

<http://holywomenholymen.wordpress.com/>

December 19 — Lillian Trasher, Missionary in Egypt, 1961

Lillian Hunt Trasher was born in 1887 in Brunswick, Georgia. As a young woman she worked at an orphanage in North Carolina, not knowing at the time that her life's work would be devoted to caring for abandoned children.

In 1909, while engaged to a man she loved deeply, she heard the testimony of a missionary from India, and she was aware at that moment that she could not be married. God had called her to service as a missionary. Not knowing where she would go, she opened her Bible and read Acts 7:34: "I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their groaning and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee to Egypt."

In 1910, she arrived in Alexandria, Egypt, with her sister Jenny, and they found their way to the village of Asyut near the Nile. Shortly after arriving, Lillian was called to the bedside of a dying mother whose malnourished daughter was also near death. Though ordered by the mission directors to return the child to the village, Lillian refused to abandon her to poverty and certain death. In 1911 she rented a small house and some furniture and nursed the child back to health.

As she took in additional children, she had to rely on charity, though she eventually received aid from the newly formed Assemblies of God in the United States. In 1916 she was able to purchase additional land, the buildings for which were built from bricks which Lillian and the older children made themselves. In 1919 she was ordered out of the country by the British government in the midst of political turmoil, and when she returned, she took in widows and the blind in addition to children. Despite the Nazi invasion of Egypt and the subsequent violence during World War II, she kept her orphanage running. When she died in 1961, she had become known as the "Mother of the Nile" and had cared for nearly 25,000 Egyptian children. Her orphanage remains open today.

December 21 — Saint Thomas the Apostle

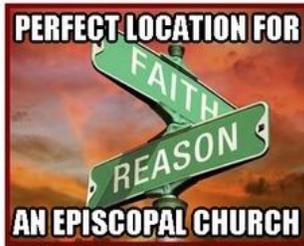
The Gospel according to John records several incidents in which Thomas appears, and from them we are able to gain some impression of the sort of man he was. When Jesus insisted on going to Judea, to visit his friends at Bethany, Thomas boldly declared, "Let us also go, that we may die with him" (John 11:16). At the Last Supper, he interrupted our Lord's discourse with the question, "Lord, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" (John 14:5). And after Christ's resurrection, Thomas would not accept the account of the other apostles and the women, until Jesus appeared before him, showing him his wounds. This drew from him the first explicit acknowledgment of Christ's Godhead, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28).

Thomas appears to have been a thoughtful if rather literal-minded man, inclined to skepticism; but he was a staunch friend when his loyalty was once given. The expression "Doubting Thomas," which has become established in English usage, is not entirely fair to Thomas. He did not refuse belief: he wanted to believe, but did not dare, without further evidence. Because of his goodwill, Jesus gave him a sign, though Jesus had refused a sign to the Pharisees. His Lord's rebuke was well deserved: "Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe" (John 20:29). The sign did not create faith; it merely released the faith which was in Thomas already.

According to an early tradition mentioned by Eusebius and others, Thomas evangelized the Parthians. Syrian Christians of Malabar, India, who call themselves the Mar Thoma Church, cherish a tradition that Thomas brought the Gospel to India. Several apocryphal writings have been attributed to him, the most prominent and interesting being the "Gospel of Thomas."

December Birthdays & Anniversaries

BIRTHDAYS			
1	Taylor Freund Daniel Schneider	16	Kathleen O'Brien
2	Frank Henry Annabelle Crowson	22	Janet Miller
4	Ewan Rucker	31	Kinsley Devine
6	Caryl Chacey-Guba	ANNIVERSARIES	
12	Sarah Wilson	7	Andy & Marge Rogers
13	Mary Feil	12	Travis & Llana Jorns
14	Glenna Schlosser	14	Anthony & Margarett Coleman
15	Rich Frankel	23	Darwin & Debbie Pffingsten
		28	Michael & Erin Chacey
		31	Karl & Leona Denesha Frank & Debbie Henry



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
 1062 Chet Smith Ave
 Derby, Kansas 67037
 316.788.2595
 The Very Rev. Tom Wilson, Rector
 rector@standrewsderby.org
 The Rev. John Roper, Deacon
 Mr. Don Morrow, Sr. Warden
 Ms. Selina Touhey, Jr. Warden
 Mr. Jack Birch, Sexton

Vestry Members:

Mr. Rick Brown
 Ms. Rebecca Dougherty
 Mrs. Margaret Kinkead
 Mrs. Martha Mason
 Unfilled Position

Send newsletter entries or suggestions by the 20th of the month to Jennifer Dorsett gigi12273@gmail.com and Fr. Tom