

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

December Issue 2019



OUR MISSION IS TO FOLLOW THE WAYS OF JESUS

Sunday Service @10:00 A.M.

247 New Milford Turnpike
Marble Dale, CT 06777

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December Calendar Reminders:

Christmas Eve Service starts at 4:30 with Carols & the Celebration of The Holy Eucharist begins at 5.

Christmas Bazaar & Luncheon is Saturday the 7th 10-2.

Confirmation Class December 8th & 22nd after the service.

Vestry Meeting is December 15th after the service

NOTE FROM FATHER GEORGE

NEW LIFE IN CHRIST

As I sit down to write this monthly page for our church paper there are several things that come to mind. It is the beginning of a new church year, we are preparing for a time to celebrate the coming of the Lord at Christmas, we are still thinking of the things for which we are thankful and I am at the beginning of a third year as Priest in Charge at Saint Andrew's Church in Marble Dale. So where are we as a church? Will this next year be more of the same or will we see some radical times of spiritual growth?

If I have missed teaching and preaching on some very basic theology of our faith I apologize. I hope to correct that possibility this Advent. The trigger is someone in our church who believes that being "Born Again" is for Baptists only.

As I read again one of the promises I made at my ordination, the Bishop asks: "Are you persuaded that the Holy Scriptures contain all Doctrine required as necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ? And are you determined, out of said Scriptures to instruct the people committed to your charge; and to teach nothing, as necessary to eternal salvation, but that which you shall be persuaded may be concluded and proved by the Scripture?" (Book of Common Prayer, 1928 edition, page 542) I said yes to this question and promise.

That brings us to John Gospel chapter 3 verse 3. When Nicodemus asked about eternal life Jesus answer was very clear; "*I tell you the truth, no one can see the Kingdom of God unless he is born again.*" Then to be sure that Nicodemus understood what He was saying He said it again two more times.

**** readers:**

1st Lesson

2nd Lesson

Gospel

1st week - Richard

Isaiah 2:1-5

Romans 13:11-14

2nd week - Colleen

Isaiah 11:1-10

Romans 15:14-13

3rd week - Joyce

Isaiah 35:1-10

James 5:7-10

4th week - Sandy

Isaiah 7:10-16

Romans 1:1-7

5th week - Irma

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

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I'm not going to let anything take away my joy. I overcame my past through the word of the Lord. I won't let anything steal my joy!

ADVENT CALENDAR

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| <p>1 Worship</p> <p>Advent 1</p> <p>What word or words from worship today have found a home in your heart? Share these words with a friend or family member.</p> | <p>2 Go</p> <p>Take time to listen closely to someone you may not ordinarily take seriously, or who has a different perspective than you. Pray to hear them as God hears them.</p> | <p>3 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:30. What are you afraid of that keeps you from saying "yes" to God?</p> | <p>4 Pray</p> <p>Set a timer for three minutes. Silently repeat this prayer: "Here I am, God."</p> | <p>5 Bless</p> <p>The angel blessed Mary with the gift of presence. To whom can you give the gift of presence this week?</p> | <p>6 Turn</p> <p>In giving generously, St. Nicholas turned from a sense of scarcity to a posture of abundance. What do you need to turn from in order to be generous of heart?</p> | <p>7 Rest</p> <p>From what could you rest in order to receive renewed life? Take as long as you are able to find that rest today.</p> |
| <p>8 Worship</p> <p>Advent 2</p> <p>What part of gathering for worship fills your heart with hope?</p> | <p>9 Go</p> <p>Read or watch your local news. Where is reconciliation needed? Pray for healing.</p> | <p>10 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:45. Consider how your faith is a blessing. Share your faith story with a friend.</p> | <p>11 Pray</p> <p>Offer a prayer of thanks for each person you encounter – both stranger and friend – silently or aloud.</p> | <p>12 Bless</p> <p>Call or write a family member with whom you desire a closer relationship. Share with them how they are a blessing.</p> | <p>13 Turn</p> <p>Reflect: Where have I fallen short this week? How can I make amends? Give thanks for the gift of fresh starts that we have through God's grace.</p> | <p>14 Rest</p> <p>Set aside 30 minutes to rest, pause, and breathe deeply with a friend or family member. Give thanks for the restorative power of love in relationship.</p> |
| <p>15 Worship</p> <p>Advent 3</p> <p>Pray for each person as they receive communion. Imagine who you would like to see at church next week. Invite them to join you.</p> | <p>16 Go</p> <p>Choose to take a different route to work, to school, or to play today. Who or what did you encounter differently?</p> | <p>17 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 1:64. When Zechariah could finally speak, he began by praising God. For what can you praise God? Share on social media or with a friend.</p> | <p>18 Pray</p> <p>Keep a lookout for anyone who might seem lonely, stressed, or sad. Offer this simple invitation: "May I pray for you?" Then offer prayers – silently or aloud – on their behalf as you move through your day.</p> | <p>19 Bless</p> <p>Identify a blessing you have that you could give away. Share this blessing with your church, a local ministry, or your community.</p> | <p>20 Turn</p> <p>Turn away from the busyness of the week and turn toward someone who gives you life or to whom you give life. Give thanks.</p> | <p>21 Rest</p> <p>In Genesis 1-2, God calls the creation "good" and rests. What can you proclaim to be "good" instead of "not enough" as a witness to God's love for the world today?</p> |
| <p>22 Worship</p> <p>Advent 4</p> <p>Linger before leaving worship today. Ask God to prepare and send you on a journey into the world to witness to God's love</p> | <p>23 Go</p> <p>Go out into your neighborhood today. Where do you see God at work? What attributes of God's love are visible? Ask God to show you how you can celebrate and join that love.</p> | <p>24 Learn</p> <p>Read Luke 2:8-10. When has God surprised you? Share with a friend.</p> | <p>25 Pray</p> <p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Read Luke 1-2. Give thanks for the birth of the Christ-child. Pray that you may follow Christ Jesus on his Way of Love with your whole heart, mind, body, and spirit.</p> | | | |

