



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
301 Circle Drive • Rocky Mount, NC 27804

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"Follow me and I will make you fishers of people."

THE CALL

St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Rocky Mount, NC



How can this be?

By the Rev. George Greer

I read a story over the internet recently regarding global organized crime. To be honest, I have no idea if the story is true or not, but it wouldn't surprise me if it were.

According to this report, several FBI agents conducted a raid on a psychiatric hospital near San Diego, CA for medical insurance fraud. After reviewing records for several hours, the agents were starving. So the agent in charge decided to order pizza. Now this must have been a large investigation because the agent ordered 19 large pizzas and 67 cans of soda.

The feeling that the pizza man had must have been something like the feelings of a teenaged girl named Mary. Archangel Gabriel comes to her and says, "Do not be afraid, ...you will conceive and bear a son." Mary responds with, how can this be?

How can this be? A perfectly normal reaction when you are faced with something that makes no sense. According to St. Luke, Mary's reaction is understandable. She is an ordinary Jewish girl, who is engaged but not yet married. An angel who tells her that she will conceive and bear a son without the benefit of a husband visits her. This child will be no ordinary child, he will be the Son of God; the long awaited Messiah. Indeed, how can this be?

The conversation that follows is what elevates her as a model disciple. She doesn't try to bargain by saying, "Well let me get married first and then I'll be more than happy to bear God's Child." She doesn't respond with a take-charge attitude either, "Well if I'm going to give birth, I need to do some planning."

Mary's response is one of acceptance. "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your will." In Mary's "yes", there are no pre-conditions.

Mary says yes, even though she has no idea what the future holds, she places her complete trust in God. This type of discipleship is what you and I are called to emulate.

We have no idea what the future has in store for us. Being a disciple does not mean that we will not encounter all that our Lord did here, but in our acceptance, God promises not to abandon us, no matter what we face in this life. God's Spirit that overshadows Mary overshadows and is apart of us as well. The miracle of God's presence didn't just happen once upon a time, it happens each and every time we accept his invitation. Amen.

December 2021

Sundays

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
We will continue to alternate between Rite I and II.

Christmas Eve

Holy Eucharist.....Rt. II.....4:30p.m.
Join us in the Commons at 4p.m. for music and delicious hot cross buns.

In a desire to help mitigate the spread of COVID-19, your vestry decided to continue our present practice of offering one in-person service on Sunday morning. We will reassess this decision at our December Vestry meeting.

Wednesdays

10:30a.m. Holy Eucharist Rt. II
In-person offering

Dates to Remember

Dec. 14	Finance	6 p.m.
Dec. 16	Meals on Wheels	10a.m.

Our Parish Family



Let Light Perpetual Shine

Alice Eugenie Walter

Sept. 30, 1938—Nov. 9, 2021

Lt. Colone Robert Edward Pennington (Ret.)

Aug. 26, 1931—Nov. 25 21, 2021

Father to Denise Kilgore & Gennie Lee Israel

Grandfather to Meghan Whitmer & Lauren Israel

Great-grandfather to Holly Ruth Whitmer



During Advent, the EYC will meet on Sundays following the 10 a.m. service. A snack will be served. Call Mrs. Coggins at 252-908-1980 for more information.



The St. Andrew's Angel Tree is active on our website; scan the QR code with your smart phone's camera and you will be taken to the webpage form. There, you can fill out the form with your name and the gender and age of a child at Carriage Court whom you'd like to provide with a wonderful Christmas. When you hit "submit" the form is automatically emailed to the church office and Paulette will send you all the information about your "angel."



St. A's Christmas Pageant
will be held
at 10:00 a.m. on
Sunday, December 12th.





Celebrating Advent at home

Advent is the beginning of a new year for the church. It's a season of double expectation: Preparation for Christmas; and the expected return of our Savior at the end of time.

There are several core themes in this season of expectation; staying awake, being alert, crying out to God for help, and trusting in God's ability to redeem our worst sins.

Enclosed in this month's newsletter, are prayers that you can share with your children or grandchildren to set the Advent Season apart from every other week.

Four Weeks of Advent What the candles symbolize.

The first purple candle symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of the Messiah.

The second purple candle represents faith. It is also called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle to be lit is the pink candle. It symbolizes joy. Sometimes it's called the "Shepherds Candle" and is pink because rose is the liturgical color for joy. We are reminded of the Joy our world experienced when Jesus was born.

The fourth candle to be lit symbolizes peace. It is sometimes referred to as the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Happy New Year

The start of a new liturgical year, beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, also marks the transition from one lectionary cycle (A, B, or C) to the next.

A lectionary is a table of readings from Scripture appointed to be read at public worship. The Lectionary (1969, revised 1981) developed by the Roman Catholic Church after Vatican II as a way for folks to become more familiar with the text of the Bible, provided for a three-year cycle of Sunday readings. This Roman lectionary provided the basis for the lectionary in 1979 edition of The Book of Common Prayer, as well as for lectionaries developed by many other denominations.

The Common Lectionary, published in 1983, was an ecumenical project of several American and Canadian denominations, developed out of a concern for the unity of the church and a desire for a common experience of Scripture. It was intended as a harmonization of the many different denominational approaches to the three-year lectionary.

The current Lectionary, published in 1992, was officially adopted by The Episcopal Church in 2006.

As a result we now have a three-year cycle of readings built around readings from the three synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke.

For the past year, we were reading from the Year B lectionary cycle. On Nov. 28, we begin reading from Year C. You'll notice that most of our Gospel lessons will come from St. Luke's Account with a bit of St. John thrown in for good measure.



What a difference 3 days make!

As you know, our old floor was starting to look it's age and was becoming brittle. Prior to installing the new floor, we had the old floor leveled. Our parish hall looks so much better!



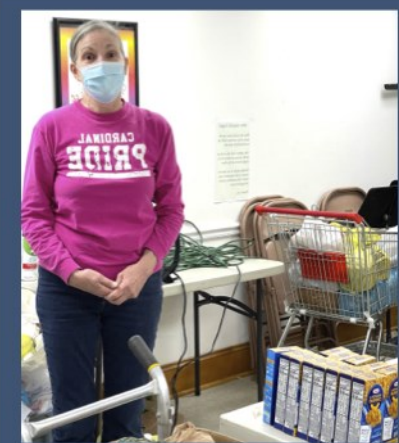
Day 6. Walls have been painted a light gray with a darker gray in the back. The sound panels have been cleaned and will be reapplied on the walls. The baseboards and upper trim will be white.

Thank you John Schacht and Tommy Parker.

These two men have worked many hours transforming our Parish Hall into a 21C room.

I plan to include a picture in January's newsletter showing our finished Parish Hall.

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever."



This is what 58 bags of food look like each week. On average, we spend \$1400.00 a month to feed the children at Winstead Elementary.

Thank you Terry Pitt, M.H. and Diana Pridgen, Tommy Parker, and Patty Kennedy for seeing that all of our meals are ready to go each Thursday.



Christmas is only a few weeks away. We see the signs of Christmas all around us. What signs have you seen? We see Christmas decorations on houses; we hear Christmas songs on the radio; we see commercials on TV, and so much more. If we didn't have all of these things to remind us, how would we know that Christmas is coming?

Two thousand years ago, there was no TV, cell phones, or radio announcing that a child would be born and that He would be the Savior of the world. When Jesus was born, very few people even knew about it. But it was an event that God had promised, and prophets foretold it many years before. Many people had been looking forward to the coming of the Savior, but they didn't know the day when He was coming.

We are now in the season of Advent. *Advent* means "the coming of something very important." It is a period of time when we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth at Christmas--and we also look forward to Jesus' return.

Jesus promised to come again, and we look forward to it, just as people 2,000 years ago looked forward to the Savior being born. No one knows exactly when Jesus will come back. It isn't marked on the calendar, but we are watching and waiting.

As we prepare to celebrate Jesus' birthday, let us also prepare for His exciting return.

Let us pray:

Dear God, we thank You for this special time of year and its important meaning to us. We praise You for keeping your promise to send a Savior and who promises to return again. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Prayers for the Advent Wreath at Home.
On the first day of the week, (Sunday) as you light your Advent Candles on your wreath say a little prayer.

First Week in Advent
Sunday, November 28, 2021

Leader: Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness

Response: And put on the armor of light.

Prayer: All powerful God, increase our strength of will for doing good that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven, where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Third Week in Advent
Sunday, December 12, 2021

Leader: Stir up your power, O Lord

Response: And with great might come among us.

Prayer: Lord God, may we, your people, who look forward to the birthday of Christ experience the joy of salvation and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lighting the Christ Candle

We give thanks for the light of hope—unrelenting and inexplicable.

Our hope in Christ shines on.

We give thanks for the light of peace—strong and unafraid.

The peace of Christ lights our way.

We give thanks for the light of joy—persistent and unpredictable.

The joy of Christ brightens our lives.

We give thanks for the light of love—hot and holy.

The love of Christ comforts and challenges.

Now let us light the Christ candle as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Thank you, God, for your light in this world through Jesus Christ.

The light shines in the darkness.

And the darkness has not overcome it.

Second Week in Advent
Sunday, December 5, 2021

Leader: Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance

Response: And prepare the way for our salvation.

Prayer: God of power and mercy open our hearts in welcome. Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ with joy so that we may share his wisdom and become one with him when he comes in glory, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Fourth Week in Advent
Sunday, December 19, 2021

Leader: Purify our conscience, Almighty God

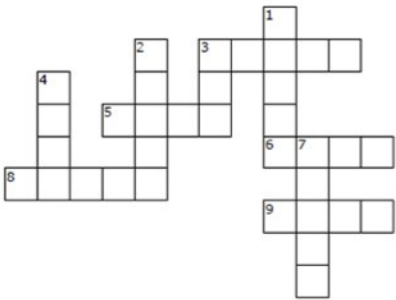
Response: By your daily visitation

Prayer: All-powerful God, your eternal Word took flesh on our earth when the Virgin Mary placed her life at the service of your plan. Lift our minds in watchful hope to hear the voice which announces his glory and open our minds to receive the Spirit who prepares us for his coming. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Christ Is Coming Again

At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. Luke 21:27 (NIV)



ACROSS

- 3. Twinkling points of light in the sky at night
- 5. The large heavenly body visible in the night sky
- 6. The part of the body containing the brain, eyes, ears, nose, mouth
- 8. To rise to an upright position on your feet
- 9. To make a request to God

DOWN

- 1. To observe very carefully
- 2. Large, white, fluffy things floating in the sky
- 3. The earth's source of heat and light
- 4. To raise from a lower to a higher position
- 7. The planet on which we live

earth	moon	cloud	pray	head
sun	stars	watch	lift	stand

Crossword Puzzle

Are You Ready?

"Stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Luke 21:28 (NIV)
Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
A	H	P	Z	K	E	X	S	C	Q	M	T	F	L	O	B	U	I	N	J	W	V	D	Y	G	R

- 1. 9-14-15-17-23-8 _____
- 2. 2-6-1-23-8 _____
- 3. 3-26-1-24 _____
- 4. 25-14-15-26-24 _____
- 5. 8-18-25-19-8 _____
- 6. 21-1-12-9-2 _____
- 7. 14-18-13-12 _____
- 8. 9-1-26-6-13-17-14 _____

GLORY	CAREFUL	HEADS	WATCH
PRAY	CLOUDS	LIFT	SIGNS

Decoder



Thanksgiving Altar Sunday, November 21



Merry Christmas
From St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

With the birth of Jesus,
A new and glorious morning breaks.
May the light of Christmas
Shine in your heart.



From
Empty

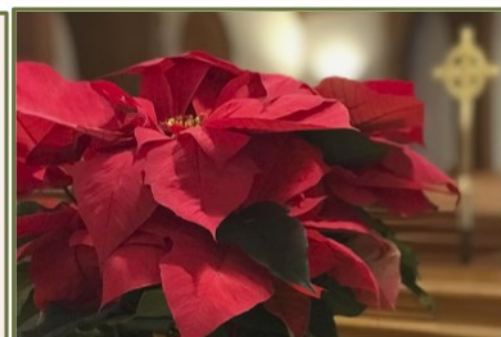
To Full!



Following our Worship Service on the 21st of Nov. we packaged 85 Holiday food bags for our pantry patrons. Each bag contained a few holiday favorites. Thank you!

Many hands make for light and happy work!

Christmas at St. Andrew's
Friday, December 24th4:30p.m.
Sunday, December 26th10:00a.m.
Sunday, January 2nd10:00a.m.



Fresh Hot Cross Buns being served at 4p.m. on Christmas Eve.

Tradition has it that hot cross buns were created by an Anglican monk in the 12C baked buns with a cross (originally made with a knife imprint) as a way to honor the upcoming Easter season

Though Hot Cross bun are usually associated with Good Friday, there is a tradition of serving them on Christmas Eve as well.

When the Wise Men visited baby Jesus, the third gift given to our Lord was that of myrrh. Myrrh was used in ancient times to prepare the body of a deceased person for burial.

Interesting that one of the Wise Men brought an ointment associated with death to the birth of our newborn king.

In 1592, Queen Elizabeth I decreed that hot cross buns could no longer be sold on any day except for Good Friday, Christmas or for burials. They were simply too special to be eaten any other day.



Creating our own Advent Wreath Sunday, Nov. 21, 2021



Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: he is Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, he is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, he is the Savior of every nation. Lord God, let your blessing come upon us as we light the candles of our advent wreaths. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation. May he come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.