



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

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Rocky Mount, NC

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

THE CALL

St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Rocky Mount, NC



Following the Leader

By the Rev. George H. Greer, Jr.

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea -- for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you fish for people." And immediately they left their nets and followed him. Mark 1:16-18

When our son Andrew was young, he and I enjoyed watching the movie, "Hook." It stars Robin Williams and Dustan Hoffman. It's one of Hollywood's adaptations of Peter Pan. In the movie, the children sing a song and play a game called "Following the Leader."

"Following the leader, the leader, the leader
We're following the leader wherever he may go."

I used to play that game when I was a child - my father played the game when he was a child -- his father played the game when he was a child. Follow the Leader is a game that is played and enjoyed by children all over the world.

The rules are very simple. You choose a leader and you follow him wherever he goes and do whatever he does. You stomp through puddles, climb over fences, swing from a tree -- all to stay in the game because nobody wants to be thought of as "a quitter."

Follow the Leader is a great game, but it's not limited to children, we play follow the leader as adults as well. In school, in Church, in sports, in any activity we are in, there are always leaders.

Every day we are faced with making a choice of which leader we will follow. We must be sure to choose a leader that will lead us in the right direction.

One day Jesus was walking along the seashore. He saw two fishermen, Peter and Andrew, who were throwing their fishing nets out into the sea. Jesus called out to them, "Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

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Our Parish Family

Notices

Due to Covid-19 infection rate, Healing Services are cancelled until further notice.

Reminder

If you have not sent in your pledge card for 2022, please do so ASAP. Your Vestry cannot finalize our 2022 budget until all cards are received. If you have lost your card, please notify the office to obtain a replacement. Thank you!

Children's Christian Education

Children's in-person Christian Education is on hold until further notice. Lessons for each Sunday in January will be mailed to the homes of each child. The lessons follow the lectionary and are accompanied by stories in the SPARKS Bible.

**The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at
10:00 a.m. on Sunday, January 16th.**



The Men's Club meeting scheduled for January 8th at 8:00 a.m. is cancelled.

Adult Christian Education

Adult Christian Education resumes at 9:00 a.m. on January 9th with an in depth study of the Book of Exodus. We will meet on Zoom rather than in-person to minimize the transmission of Covid-19; the Zoom information is below:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83426678551>

Meeting ID: 834 2667 8551

To call in dial: 1-929-205-6099 (plus Meeting ID above);

or dial 1-301-715-8592 (plus Meeting ID above)

January 2022

Sundays

9:00a.m.....Adult Christian Ed
10:00a.m.....H.E. ..Rt. I & II

Adult Christian Ed begins on Jan. 9
at 9a.m. via Zoom.

Wednesdays

10:30a.m.Holy Eucharist Rt. II
Healing Service

Dates to Remember

Jan 11.....Finance Meeting...6p.m.
Jan 16.....Annual Parish Meeting
11:15a.m. via zoom
Jan 19.....Vestry Meeting.....6p.m.
Jan 20....Meals on Wheels...10a.m.

Following the Leader

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The Bible tells us that they immediately laid down their nets and followed Jesus. Jesus went a little further and he saw two more men, James and John, sitting in their boat mending their nets. Jesus called out to them and the Bible tells us that they left their boat, their father, and they followed Jesus.

Jesus continues to call people to follow him today. He has called you and me to follow him. Now it's up to us to decide if we will follow the leader. Amen.

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, Dec. 12 Directors: Sarah K Rollings, Keller Strandberg, and Katie Keeter



Casting and Make-up

Chaos behind the scenes.



*The Voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
‘Make straight the way of the Lord’.*

The Sacrament of Baptism is often conferred during the season of Epiphany, especially on the Feast Day itself (Jan. 6) and on the First Sunday after Epiphany. The gospel lesson for the First Sunday after the Epiphany is always the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist in the River Jordan.

During the season of Epiphany, all of our gospel lessons point to Jesus' true identity. Our baptisms do as well. During Baptism, God adopts us and makes us members of Christ's body, inheritors of God's Kingdom.

The painting below is by Pietro Longhi and was painted in 1755-57. Pietro was the son of a goldsmith and born in Venice in 1702.

Longhi struggled to find his artistic niche until his 40's. His primary subjects were scenes of everyday life on small canvases. Unlike most painters in his day that sought foreign patrons, Longhi worked for local patrons and collectors. One of his greatest collections is that depicting the Seven Sacraments of the church. Below is one of his more famous pieces. It is titled, "The Baptism".

There are many wonderful symbols found in this piece and I like to share a few of them.

At the top of the baptismal font is a statuette of John the Baptist with a lamb at his feet and a shell in his right hand for sprinkling water.

A woman watches the ceremony from the wings, half hidden by the column. She is probably the mother, who, having not yet been purified after the birth, cannot be admitted to the church.

Here, a man has an oil stock on a serving tray.



The baby is swaddled in bands of cloth and long, white fabric. Baptismal water is being sprinkled over his head. The gentleman holding the baby is probably the child's God father

A long candle is a gift to the newly baptized child. It is a symbol of resurrection and is linked to the paschal candle.



*"For unto us a child is born.
Unto us, a Son is given."*

Hymn Story

The Rev. Richard Donovan

#96 Angels we have heard on high

We sang this hymn for our "Gloria" during the Christmas Season

This popular Christmas carol celebrates the news that the angel brought to the shepherds—the news of the birth in Bethlehem of "a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11).

Most popular media today portray angels as lovely, delicate, and feminine, but Biblical angels either had masculine names or there was no clue to their gender. They acted as God's messengers (Luke 1:11-20; 1:26-38; 2:8-14).

The shepherds were frightened by the appearance of the angel—and by the glory of the Lord which shone around them. But the angel told them not to fear, because the birth of the Savior was "good news of great joy which will be to all the people" (Luke 2:10).

Then the heavens opened with a "heavenly army praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men'" (Luke 2:13-14). This heavenly army is the first glimpse that we get of the legions of angels that were available to Jesus (Matthew 26:53).

The chorus of this song, "Gloria in excelsis Deo," is based on the first part of the heavenly chorus, "Glory to God in the highest." "Gloria in excelsis Deo" is the Latin Vulgate translation of Luke 2:14, and means "Glory to God in the highest."

This is a traditional French carol, but beyond that we know nothing of its origins. What we do know is that it has blessed our Christmas worship for centuries, and continues to bless it today.

Scripture quotations from the World English Bible.



Go! And announce the Gospel of
the Lord!

Thanks be to God.



Decorating our Chrismon Tree
Dec. 19

The women of our Warm-Up Guild gave 58 knitted hats to the children of our Back Pack food program at Winstead Elementary.

They also gave prayer shawls and lap blankets to 8 residents of Autumn Care that do not have extended family in the area.



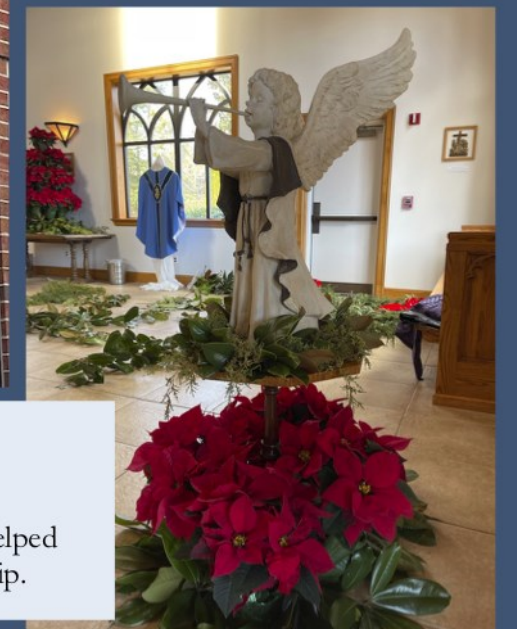
Our choir preparing for Lessons and Carols



Following our Service of Lessons and Carols on Dec. 19, we packaged 116 meals for our children at Winstead Elementary.



A few of Santa's helpers delivering gifts to 40 children living at Carriage Court Apartments.



Greening the Church
December 22

A hearty "Thank you" to all the folks that helped decorate and prepare our space for worship.