



The
CHURCH MOUSE

Through the Grace of God, the mission of St. Andrew's is to nurture each person's relationship with God through worship, praise, and study, to be a loving community, and to spread Christ's Kingdom.

Chronicle

Decemer 2009



CHRISTMAS  EVE

9:00 a.m. Hanging of the Greens
4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist
with the Nativity Story
10:30 p.m. Festival Eucharist

CHRISTMAS  DAY

9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Christmas Flowers and Music

A donation form for making donations for the Christmas Flowers and/or Music will be in the Sunday bulletins during December.



A couple of weeks ago was the Seventy-Second Convention of the Diocese of Oklahoma held in Bartlesville. St Andrew's was ably represented by Jay Boyington, Lynn Schwartz and Jim Cox. Our fourth delegate, Karen Dean, was unable to attend.

In many ways a Diocesan Convention is an Episcopal pep rally. Business is conducted but the majority of the time is spent learning more about and celebrating the ministry of the Episcopal Church in Oklahoma.

For Katie and I the trip to Bartlesville was especially significant since St. Luke's was the parish where we began our ministry together. I was ordained as a priest in that church and served there for eight years as the associate rector.

It was fun to see some of the church members whom we knew back then who are still active in the church. I am always amazed at the resilience of Episcopalians and the special place the church holds for us over the years.

On the down side the house we lived in across the alley from the church has been torn down. All that is left is the garage which also served as a storage place for the church's scout troop.

In addition St Luke's has for a long time hung pictures of their clergy on the parish hall wall.

There "it" still hangs. Red hair (a little long), wire rimmed glasses (an improvement over the earlier black plastic Buddy Holly looking pair that preceded them) and looking about thirteen years old. I hoped no one would notice the photo but of course some did!!

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At this year's Convention a couple of significant changes in the diocesan canons (laws) were made. One has a bigger impact on congregations than the other.

The one that impacts us the most is a change in the way our assessment, now known as Mutual Ministry Support, is figured.

It's a long story but up until now the assessment—the money we pass along to the diocese for it's ministry support, was based on parish income from two years earlier. That's great if income is growing each year. But not so hot when parish income is static or falling as it is for many places these days—our church included.

The new plan calls for the parish to pay a fixed percent of its income from the previous month. This way the payment ebbs and flows with the church's income in real time.

While this system may be a little tricky when it comes to estimating the annualized amount for budget purposes it should take some pressure off the budget month to month.

The other positive outcome of this assessment change is the percentage amount to be paid in 2010 is 18.5%. For many years the rate has been 21.5%!

In making this Mutual Ministry Support change the diocese is also reflecting the stewardship principal of proportional giving in which we see our church pledge as a portion of our income—whatever that percentage might be. When income is up the pledge amount is up. When income is down the pledge amount is down.

The diocese is now committed to living by its own advice. I urge each of us to try it too.

Fr. Bob



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
516 West Third
Stillwater, OK 74074

The Rev. Robert Fellows, Rector
The Rev. Mary Hileman, College Chaplain
Debi Hodson, Office Administrator

Parish News . . .



Eric Lovelace will graduate from Oklahoma State University on Dec. 12. You are invited to a reception in his honor at the Wilber/Lovelace home, 623 W. Cheyenne, on Sat., Dec. 12 from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Merry Christmas!



The Sunday School children have a "Christmas gift" they would like to share with the church.

Everyone is invited to come to the Parish Hall at 10:00 AM, Sunday, Dec. 13 to hear them (the kids) sing a few Christmas songs, and everyone can enjoy some hot chocolate and cookies.



You are invited to a Christmas Cookie / Ornament Exchange Party

Date: Saturday, Dec. 12

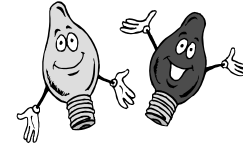
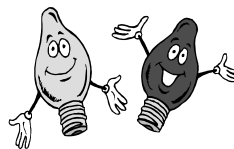
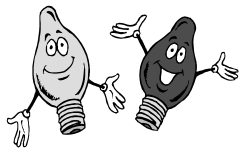
Time: 3:00 p.m.

Place: Clarke & Debi

Hodson's house
(1921 Copperhead Lane)

Bring your favorite cookies
(and an ornament) to exchange!

Thrift Shop
Christmas Open
House
Tuesday, December 15



Christmas Fun Facts

- In the Middle Ages, Christmas celebrations were rowdy and raucous - a lot like today's Mardi Gras parties.
- From 1659 to 1682, the celebration of Christmas was outlawed in Boston, and law-breakers were fined five shillings.
- Christmas wasn't a holiday in early America - in fact Congress was in session on December 25, 1789, the country's first Christmas under the new constitution.
- Christmas was declared a federal holiday in the United States on June 26, 1870.
- The first eggnog made in the United States was consumed in Captain John Smith's 1607 Jamestown settlement.
- Poinsettia plants are named after Joel R. Poinsett, an American minister to Mexico, who brought the red and green plant from Mexico to America in 1828.
- The Salvation Army has been sending Santa Claus clad donation collectors into the streets since the 1890's.
- Rudolph, "the most famous reindeer of all," was the product of Robert L. May's imagination in 1939. The copywriter wrote a poem about the reindeer to help lure customers into the Montgomery Ward department store.
- Construction workers started the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree tradition in 1931.

Report from the order of the Daughters of the King

The Fall retreat was held October 30-31 at St. Crispin's in Oakerhater Lodge. "Empowered to share and teach prayer" was the theme with workshops designed to help all members as they work in their churches. Friday was a very relaxed time for quiet contemplation with the beauties of this wonderful area of Oklahoma. After a delightful evening meal we spent time sharing our prayer experience and resources. Different books, websites, tools used during our own prayer time. After breakfast the next day, we spent the morning working on the workshop that the DOK we to present at the Diocesan Convention Nov. 20 - 21st.

I always return from these retreats regenerated.

Velma Sanders, DOK member

Christmas Carol Sing

You are cordially invited to a Christmas Carol Sing which will take Sunday, December 6th at 2:30 at First United Methodist Church. This is a community event sponsored by the Cimarron Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. We will sing Christmas carols and hear some organ music based on those carols. In addition, there will be some choral music presented by First United Methodist Church choirs. The event is free, although one may give an offering in baskets in the narthex, the collection being applied to feeding people in need. Please come, and bring a friend.



Annual Reports

If you are a chairperson, leader, sponsor or head of a committee, group or project please remember that you are to turn in a yearly report to be included in the Annual Reports for the Annual Meeting. You may leave them in the church office or e-mail them to standrews@brightok.net as soon as you have them completed ...however the deadline is Monday, January 11th. If you would like to see a copy of last year's report, please see Debi in the church office.

Holiday Brass Music

The OSU Department of Music will present a special concert of Holiday Brass Music, Thursday December 10 at St. Andrews Episcopal Church. The concert begins at 8:00 p.m. and is free to all. The program will include holiday selections for brass quintets, trumpet ensemble, horn choir, and trombone ensemble. The performance will conclude with three special arrangements for brass made famous by the legendary jazz group, the Stan Kenton Orchestra.

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF ST. ANDREW'S PARISH

will be held on Sunday, January 24th. A pot-luck luncheon will be held prior to the meeting [and following the 10:30 a.m. service.] Elections for Junior Warden, Vestry Members, Convention Delegates and next year's Nominating Committee will be held. The budget for 2010 will also be presented.



Lessons & Carols

On Sunday, December 6th, St. Andrew's choir will offer its annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols at the 10:30 a.m. service. This beautiful service includes scripture readings, choral music, and hymn singing for the congregation. Please invite friends to accompany you to this special service.



St. Andrew's Annual Christmas Carol Sing

Our annual Christmas Carol Sing and pot-luck supper will be held at a date and time in December to be announced. Please watch the Sunday bulletins and e-mail for the date. Bring a favorite holiday dish for the pot-luck supper and plan to join us.



Hanging of the Greens

9:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Morning
Come help decorate the church for our
Christmas Services.

Holy Eucharist ... 4:00 p.m on Christmas Eve

The Service of Holy Eucharist will include the telling of the story of Christmas to which children are invited to bring a stuffed animal to add to the creche.



(The stuffed animal may be left at the creche for the evening service, or may be taken home at the end of this service.)



Christmas Eve
Festival Eucharist
10:30 p.m.

Christmas Day Service

Holy Eucharist
9:00 a.m.





The **Twelve Days of Christmas** is probably the most misunderstood part of the church year among Christians who are not part of liturgical church traditions. Contrary to much popular belief, these are not the twelve days *before* Christmas, but in most of the Western Church are the twelve days from Christmas until the beginning of **Epiphany** (January 6th; the 12 days count from December 25th until January 5th). In some traditions, the first day of Christmas begins on the evening of December 25th but the following day is considered the First Day of Christmas (December 26th).

The origin of the Twelve Days is complicated, and is related to differences in calendars, church traditions, and ways to observe this holy day in various cultures. In the Western church, Epiphany is usually celebrated as the time the Wise Men or Magi arrived to present gifts to the young Jesus (Matt. 2:1-12). In some cultures, especially Hispanic and Latin American culture, January 6th is observed as Three Kings Day, or simply the Day of the Kings. Even though December 25th is celebrated as Christmas in these cultures, January 6th is often the day for giving gifts. In some places it is traditional to give Christmas gifts for each of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Since Eastern Orthodox traditions use a different religious calendar, they celebrate Christmas on January 7th and observe Epiphany or Theophany on January 19th.

The **Twelfth Night** is January 5th, the last day of the Christmas Season before Epiphany (January 6th). In some church traditions, January 5th is considered the eleventh Day of Christmas, while the evening of January 5th is still counted as the Twelfth Night, the beginning of the Twelfth day of Christmas the following

day. Twelfth Night often included feasting along with the removal of Christmas decorations. French and English celebrations of Twelfth Night included a **King's Cake**, remembering the visit of the Three Magi, and ale or wine (a King's Cake is part of the observance of **Mardi Gras** in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA). In some cultures, the **King's Cake** was part of the celebration of the day of **Epiphany**.

The popular song "The Twelve Days of Christmas" is usually seen as simply a nonsense song for children. However, some have suggested that it is a song of Christian instruction dating to the 16th century religious wars in England, with hidden references to the basic teachings of the Faith. They contend that it was a mnemonic device to teach the catechism to youngsters. The "true love" mentioned in the song is not an earthly suitor, but refers to God Himself. The "me" who receives the presents refers to every baptized person who is part of the Christian Faith. Each of the "days" represents some aspect of the Christian Faith that was important for children to learn.

On the 1st Day of Christmas...

- ... A Partridge in a Pear Tree
The partridge is Jesus the Christ
- ... Two Turtle Doves
The Old and New Testaments
- ... Three French Hens
3 Theological Virtues: Faith, Hope, Love
- ... Four Calling Birds
The 4 Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John
- ... Five Gold Rings
The first five books of the Old Testament
- ... Six Geese A-laying
The 6 days of creation
- ... Seven Swans A -swimming
7 gifts of the Holy Spirit
- ... Eight Maids A-milking
The 8 Beatitudes
- ... Nine Ladies Dancing
The 9 Fruits of the Holy Spirit
- ... Ten Lords A-leaping
The 10 Commandments
- ... Eleven Pipers Piping
The 11 Faithful Apostles
- ... Twelve Drummers Drumming
The 12 Points of Doctrine in the Apostles' Creed

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| LAY MINISTRY SCHEDULE | | | | | | |
| | December 6 <i>2 Advent Lessons & Carols</i> | December 13 <i>3 Advent</i> | December 20 <i>4 Advent</i> | December 24 <i>Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m.</i> | December 24 <i>Christmas Eve 10:30 p.m.</i> | December 27 <i>1 Christmas</i> |
| Vestry Person | Chuck Jones | Christina DeWitt | Pat Ozment | Scott Blackwell | Chuck Jones | Karen Dean |
| Counters | Bill Armstrong Barbara Gish | Karen Dean Susan Eaton | Christina DeWitt Renee Bodine | ?? | ?? | Heidi Hoart Rusty Muns |
| Acolytes | Adam Bracy Stella Frisby Bruce Jackson Maia Cruse | Miranda Eaton Chloe Cox Maggie Walter Stuart Blackwell | Courtney Lawlor Kaitie Lawlor Claire Tipling Briley Parsons Alex Boyington Gwen Tipling | Atticus Mullon Stella Frisby Ethan Blackwell Stuart Blackwell all kids | Adam Bracy Chloe Cox Maia Cruse Maggie Walter | Miranda Eaton Melanie Kiser Stella Frisby Bruce Jackson |
| Greeters | Terry Miller Pam Altizer | Bill Dunn Kermit Ingham | Ralph Hamilton Chuck Jones | Velma Sanders | | Jeanne Schroeder Bette Ingham |
| Lay Readers | Pam Altizer Lynn Franzmann Jack Knorr Brecca Farr | Marlene Strathe Tommy Kiser | Ellen Ross Joan McKeever | Edwin Sutherland Leslie Baker | Brad Rickelman John Irons | Steve Miller Tommy Kiser |
| Readings | | | | | | |
| LEV | Velma Sanders | Susan Chinburg-Locy | Leslie Baker | | | Bill and Roberta Armstrong |
| After Church Snacks | Jerry Sutherland Family | Farr Family | Fellows' Family | | | Baker/Bracy Family |



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
516 West Third
Stillwater, OK 74074

standrews@brightok.net
www.saintandrewschurch.org



St. Andrew's Christmas Festival

December 5, 2009

The Christmas Festival will include:

- Arts and Crafts from local and regional artists
- Fabulous Food
- An wonderful opportunity to spread the great news about Saint Andrew's Church.

