



THE VOICE

NOVEMBER
2015

A Publication of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church & School

THANKS TO
SUMMERHOUSE FOR
FOLDING *THE VOICE*
AND OUR SERVICE
BULLETINS

*Serving adults with
intellectual disabilities in
the Houston Heights.*

summerhousehouston.org
shredforindependence.com

Support Autumn Bazaar November 7

Our Autumn Bazaar is one of our largest parish fundraisers and we need you to make it a success! Volunteers are needed to help with early morning set-up, afternoon clean-up and food service throughout the day. Please consider lending a hand for an hour or two to help make this event the best it can be! This promises to be a fun fall event and a great way to connect with other St. Andrew's parishioners. Contact Steve Runner to sign up at ssrunner@hotmail.com.

Shop Till You Drop!

The Autumn Bazaar at St. Andrew's will showcase more than 50 artists, crafters and other specialty vendors from 10 am to 4 pm, offering a great opportunity to shop for unique gifts just in time for the holidays. Admission is FREE, and all are invited to stop by, shop and check out all the wonderful offerings. Bring your friends, neighbors, and family!

Let Us Find Peace Together

St. Andrew's invites you to take a calming break during your busy week with Evening Prayer on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the chapel. This brief, half-hour service provides a respite from our busy lives. All are welcome.

Then, celebrate at Taize on Friday, November 6. This service offers a wonderful way to quietly reflect at the end of a busy week. With meditation, candlelight and music, our monthly Taize service is a time of quiet contemplation. Please join us.

Fill Seafarer Christmas Boxes & Spread God's Love

For most of us, Christmas means time with family and friends—celebrating together. For the seafarers who dock at the Port of Houston each holiday season, Christmas can be a lonely time. They are far away from loved ones with no ability to receive packages, and many are unable to come ashore.



Those who minister to these hard-working men and women through the Houston International Seafarers' Centers know how much joy a simple shoebox can bring. More than 11,000 shoeboxes are filled and wrapped each year, donated to the Centers, and distributed to those calling at the Port of Houston during the holiday season. Last year more than 500 ships from almost 70 different countries we served. Regardless of nationality or language spoken, the gift of a

Christmas Box is a wonderful symbol of God's love and is often the only gift these travelers will receive.

"Filling the boxes with small toiletries and other simple items doesn't seem like much, but to the people who receive them, these are wonderful and much appreciated gifts," said Pat Caver, program coordinator. "It's wonderful to think of the 50 individuals from across the globe who will be touched by the boxes we fill."



We will wrap the pre-filled boxes in the Parish Hall on Sunday, November 29, after the 10:30 am service, and we welcome your participation in the fun! It is a terrific way to observe the Advent season – by demonstrating God's love as we remember people from all over the world who are likely to be far from home at the holiday season.

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Serve the Food Pantry

The Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry, located at 3523 Beauchamp, is open for clients from 5-7 pm on Thursday evenings and from 10 am – noon on Saturdays. Volunteers of all ages are welcome on any of these days, beginning 30 minutes prior, to sign in, stock shelves, prepare bags and baskets, and whatever else needs to be done. St. Andrew's provides a volunteer crew on the 4th Saturday of the month and anyone is welcome to join in the fellowship and service to our hungry neighbors. **This month our service day is November 21 due to the Thanksgiving holiday.**

50+ Group to Travel November 3

You're invited to join the fun on Tuesday, November 3 as our 50+ travelers visit the "911" City of Houston Emergency Center and the "Life Flight" Center featured every day on the TV news. Cost: \$0! We will leave St Andrew's parking lot, corner of Yale and 19th Streets, at 9 am sharp, so don't be late! All tour goers must register with Addie Smith three days prior to tour and bring photo ID. Call Addie at 713-686-1081 or email Dean Swanson at swansonad@sbcglobal.net for details.

From The Rector • Remembering John Binford

By Rector Jimmy Grace



John Binford, Episcopal priest and rector of St. Andrew's from 1978 to 1999, died on October 4, 2015. He was 78 years old. Those of you who know John likely have a number of stories about him while he was at St. Andrew's. One of the favorite stories I heard about him recently recalled an afternoon parish picnic where John walked out holding a cigar in one hand and a beer in the other, saying "let's have a revival!"

There are many things that I admire about John. He was a humble, kind, and compassionate parish priest. When he arrived at St. Andrew's in 1978, he came to a church that had seen two rectors come and go in under one year. In Anne Sloane's history of St. Andrew's, she writes that John came to St. Andrew's "with one important purpose: to make it possible for this parish to survive."

John was faithful to this purpose while serving as rector of St. Andrew's. During his 21 years at St. Andrew's, the parish was healthy, facilities were improved, and John was a consistent pastoral presence in the life of this community. Some of you all he married, some of your children he baptized, and some of your loved ones he visited in hospitals.

The first time that I ever met John and Clara Binford, I was a deacon serving at Epiphany, Houston. John came to celebrate the Eucharist one Sunday, and I remember having coffee with him and Clara in my office. That was more than 10 years ago, and while I do not recall our conversation, I do recall how kind and thoughtful he was.

Just two months ago I saw John and Clara having lunch at Beck's Prime across the street from the church. He pulled my shirt sleeve and said with a smile "I do hope parishioners are paying their pledges at St. Andrew's!" I assured him that they were.

That was the last time I saw John. When I heard that he had died, I naturally felt a sense of shock and sadness. However, I am grateful for John, for his ministry, and most importantly, for his life.

In a hallway just outside the church, there is a stained glass window depicting Jesus as the Good Shepherd. It is a window that was dedicated to John, and it is fitting, as John was a good shepherd, indeed.



Celebrate Together: God The Giver

by Elizabeth McCormick

We are wrapping up our six-week annual giving campaign with a wonderful celebration on Sunday, November 8. All are invited to share in fellowship and a catered lunch after the 10:30 am service. NO potluck this time!

Together, we have experienced a reflective journey with personal testaments from several of our parishioners. I'm confident that you were able to connect with your own story.

I know that for me it has been a time of prayer and giving thanks for our many blessings. October was a very busy month that included a wonderful parish election and lunch, well attended Blessing of the Animals, and a retreat at Camp Allen. How fun was that and there's so much more to come!

If you haven't sent your pledge card in yet, please bring it to the Sunday service. If you have, thank you! We'll have cards in the pews that read, "I've pledged". We will all be invited to bring our cards to the front for a blessing. Having all the pledges in by November 8, 2015 gives the treasurer and the vestry time to consider and prepare the budget based on the pledges received. This is an exciting time at St. Andrew's with many vibrant ministries serving within our walls and outside in our community. May 2016 bring you abundant blessings!



Make Advent Wreathes November 29

During the Education Hour on the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, all ages are invited to join in a festive morning of Advent Wreath-Making in the Parish Hall. Bring a pair of garden clippers and your creativity and we'll provide the needed supplies to create an Advent wreath to use at home during this holy season.

On this special morning before St. Andrew's Day there will also be a cookie exchange, crafts for children and some special surprises, so mark your calendars!



Black Hats are Back!

The Black Hat ministry is back in business. Our goal: 50 hats before the first cold snap. Kits and yarn and with optional knit or crochet patterns are available in the Oak Table Lobby. Take a kit, make a hat and return to the marked basket. The hats are given to the homeless along with sack lunches during the winter months. Many thanks to the Daughters of the King and others for yarn contributions. Donations of hats, yarn crochet/knitting needles are always welcome. Just place in the box that is labeled "Black Hat".

Questions? Contact Priscilla Burroughs, pburroughs@bythewaters.com.

Grow with Adult Education Programs

9:30 am in the Parish Hall

Being Mortal

Carissa Baldwin-McGinnis will continue the discussion of Atul Gawande's *Being Mortal*. The book deals with the culture of western medicine and its impact on issues of quality of life and death.

- November 1 - Courageous Conversations Toward the Future will address quality of life concerns and end of life planning.

9:30 am in the Library

Discuss the Gospel

The Adult Forum meets each Sunday and contemplates the weekly Gospel reading with the help of resources for lay people. Learn, discuss and grow in understanding God's word.



Inquirer's Class Continues

In anticipation of Bishop Doyle's visit November 29, a series of Inquirer's Classes for adults are planned. Each class will meet from 9:30 – 10:20 am in St. Andrew's House. To register, please contact Trish Mehrkam, at 713-816-5596 or trish.mehrkam@saecheights.org. Classes will cover the topics below, and is open to anyone interested in learning more about the Episcopal Church or being confirmed or received by the Bishop.

- November 1 - The New Testament
- November 8 - Church History
- November 15 - The Book of Common Prayer
- November 22 - Q & A about the Episcopal Church, Confirmation, Reception
- November 29 - Bishop Doyle visits to confirm and receive.

Give Altar Flowers

Honor a loved one or special occasion with the gift of altar flowers. A contribution of \$80 will purchase two arrangements for Sunday services, and donations in any amount are welcome and will be recognized in the service bulletin. Choose your Sunday on the Altar Flower Calendar, located on the bulletin board near the rear entrance. Then drop your check in the alms basin or mail to the church office—please specify Altar Flowers on your check. Contact Elizabeth McCormick at eamack@sbcglobal.net or 832-661-7300 for additional information.

Get the Latest

- Let us know if your information has changed.
- Share your email address to receive schedule reminders and changes.
- Contact the church office with updates.

Introduce Yourself...

Please wear your name tag when attending St. Andrew's. Putting a name with a face helps build our community. For a new or replacement name tag, contact the church office.

Got News?

If you have information of interest to St. Andrew's, contact the church office.

Join the Meal Train!

In times of illness, injury and family need, the gift of a prepared meal can satisfy both physical and emotional hunger. Our Meal Train Ministry is a simple way to lend a hand with take-out or home cooking. Contact Martha Gallagher at mgg0413@gmail.com or 281-501-2294 if you'd like to get on board.

Nursery Welcomes Little Ones

Nursery care is available on Sunday mornings for children, from infancy through 3 years old, from 9:15 am until noon. The nursery is located to the right of the church's main entrance (to the left if you enter from the rear parking lot) and can be found at the far end of the Oak Table Lobby. The nursery is staffed by three experienced nursery caregivers who have been trained in Safeguarding God's Children and the Montessori infant/toddler environment.

Attention Kroger Shoppers!

It's easy to support St. Andrew's every time you shop at Kroger. By enrolling in the Community Rewards program, Kroger will donate a portion of your purchases to support our ministries. Visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com to register and link your Kroger Plus card account to St. Andrew's with 83715, our organization number. If you do not have computer access and wish to participate, contact Chris Barker at 713-868-3952.

God's Secretaries: Explore the Making of the King James Bible

The King James Bible is the greatest work of English prose ever written! You may not realize it, but the translation of the bible we use every Sunday is a direct descendant of the King James Bible. The Spiritual Reading Group is discussing how this translation was conceived and implemented in only seven years. On November 9, we will continue our discussion of *God's Secretaries*, by Adam Nicholson, with a look at chapters 3-5. In these chapters, Nicholson vividly describes the scene as the newly crowned king of England and Scotland, James, meets with various factions, each of which has a competing vision of what the Church of England should become; how the suggestion of a new translation came forth and was accepted; how the rules for translation were devised; and how the translation committees were established.

We meet on the second Monday of the month from 6:30 – 8 pm at St. Andrew's House. All are welcome. If you are unable to attend, you can participate in an online discussion by joining the Facebook group SAEC Spiritual Reading Group.

Advent Lessons & Carols Service December 6

On Sunday, December 6 at 5 pm, join us for a service of Advent Lessons & Carols. Framed in a liturgy that invites us to pause, reflect, and wait—counter to what our Christmas-crazed culture demands—this service will use readings to explore themes of expectation and the mystery of God's incarnation as Emmanuel, "God with us." Following the readings will be musical selections of either Advent carols sung by all or anthems sung by the St. Andrew's choir that build on the themes of the readings. The use of candlelight, incense and movement will punctuate this service. The service is adapted for Advent from the Christmas Eve Lessons & Carols service instituted at Truro Cathedral in Great Britain in 1880 and popularized by King's College, Cambridge, which has sung the service annually since 1918.

Choir Is Open for Business!

Have you ever considered singing in a choir even though you have never done so? Or have you sung in choirs before and are wanting to sing again? Do you wish you knew more about singing? If so, consider joining the St. Andrew's Choir. Even if you have no choral experience, can't read music, or don't consider yourself a viable candidate for "The Voice," you may still have a place in the choir. During weekly rehearsals, the choir learns musical skills such as breathing and reading music while rehearsing music for Sunday services. No prior experience is necessary, just a desire to participate in this vital ministry and a commitment to attend weekly Wednesday rehearsals from 7-8:30 pm. The St. Andrew's Choir sings a variety of music from the plainchant of the early church to recently composed pieces, and everything in between, and sings every Sunday at the 10:30 am service as well as at special services throughout the year. Please contact Organist/Choirmaster John Kirk if you are interested in joining the choir! You may email him at jkirk@saecheights.org.

Celebrate Thanksgiving with Us November 23



The Heights Interfaith Ministries (HIM) Community Dinner and Service of Thanksgiving will be held Monday, November 23 at St Andrew's. A shared meal begins at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall—food provided. The service follows at 7 pm. This is a beautiful opportunity to break bread and worship with our neighbors who walk various paths and give thanks to our common One God. Attendees are asked to bring non-perishable food items which, along with the service offering, will be given to area food pantries at All Saints Catholic Church, Grace United Methodist Church and Heights Interfaith Ministries.

Seafarer Christmas Boxes

Continued from page 1

Help Us Fill 50 Boxes!

Check the bulletin board in the rear entry hall and sign up to bring 25 or 50 or an item. Please bring the items to church no later than Sunday, November 22, and leave them in the marked red bin next to the cart. **Please do NOT bring large toiletry items.** Smaller/travel sizes enable us to fit more items in each box. Hint: Dollar stores are a great resource!

Here's what we need:

Aftershave	Gold Bond Powder	Popcorn (microwave)
Band-aids (fabric)	Gum	Postcards – picture
Bandanas	Hard candy	Q-Tips
Caps (baseball or knit)	Hot chocolate mix	Shampoo
Calendars - 2016	Keychains	Shaving cream
Combs	Kleenex	Soap
Dental floss	Lip balm	Socks
Deodorant	Lotion	Sudoku books
Disposable razors	Mechanical pencils	Texas souvenirs
Flashlight w/batteries	Nail clippers	Tissues
Gloves	Needles/thread	Toothbrushes
Gold Bond Cream	Notebooks – pocket-size	Toothpaste
	Pens	USB flash drives
	Playing cards	

Serve Breakfast at LOTS November 1

For more than 25 years, Lord of the Streets (LOTS) Episcopal Church has been an integral part of outreach and support to the homeless community in Houston. A team from St. Andrew's will serve breakfast to those served by this ministry on Sunday, November 1. Volunteers meet at Trinity Episcopal Church (1015 Holman Street at Main Street) from 7-9 am. Free parking is available

across the street on Holman. To sign up for the LOTS Breakfast Service or learn about other volunteer opportunities, please contact Bruce Banta at 713-805-0065 or banta.bruce@gmail.com.

St. Andrew's is a supporting parish of LOTS and is making an impact in helping bring hope to Houston's disadvantaged. Today, LOTS weekday and Sunday worship services are offered along with Bible Study and a Sunday breakfast for nearly 250 individuals. LOTS ministers to the spiritual and emotional needs of the homeless, focusing primarily on spiritual growth and tangible support of its challenged parishioners. LOTS provides programs and services that meet the basic physical and emotional needs of the homeless.

By providing homeless individuals a safe community environment, LOTS helps promote growth and self-reliance for an improved quality of life. In fact, for many, LOTS is the initial point of entry into the social service system. Many have had their lives severely altered through chronic homelessness, domestic violence, job loss, and economic disadvantages; others live in shelters or have been recently released from prison. No matter what the story, they each come to LOTS seeking tangible assistance, guidance, direction, and spiritual support.



Communion To Go

If you are unable to get to church because of health or mobility issues and would like to share Eucharist with your parish family, please notify Dorothy Yannuzzi at djannuzzi@comcast.net or call the church office at 713-861-5596 by Friday. We have trained Lay Eucharistic Visitors who are ready and able to bring our Holy Banquet to you.

Donation Depot

Drop the following in our Oak Table Lobby:

Sack Lunch Supplies – sign up to contribute needed items on the bulletin board in the rear entry hall

Clothing & Eyeglasses – clean, gently used clothing for men, women and children and used eyeglasses benefit Lord of the Streets church in Midtown.

Adult Diapers – given to elders in need in collaboration with Heights Church of Christ.

Food – Non-perishable staples are delivered to Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry.

Egg Cartons – Empty cartons are taken to Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry.

Personal Hygiene Items – travel size toiletries are given to Heights Christian Church to assist our neighbors on the streets.

Used Batteries – collected and taken for appropriate recycling.

Children & Youth Education at St. Andrew's



PARLOR (pahr-ler) n. a room used primarily for conversation or the reception of guests
"I no longer call you servants...Instead, I have called you friends..." John 15:15

What's on Tap @ The Parlor

October was a great time for The Parlor. We played hard, worked hard and connected with one another, our church community and God. I anticipate more of the same for November. So open up your calendar app, friends, and save the following dates:

November 1

9:30 am, Education Hour @ St. Andrew's House
EYC outing 3- 5 pm (destination TBD)

November 7

Church Bazaar, 9 am-4 pm;
The Parlor is manning the drink booth

November 8

9:30 am, Education Hour @ St. Andrew's House

Do you "like" us? Are you "following" us?

Find us on Facebook (The Parlor at SAEC) and Instagram (@theparlor.saec).



November 15

9:30 am, Education Hour @ St. Andrew's House
EYC outing 3- 5 pm (destination TBD)

November 20-22

Happening and YES at Camp Allen

November 22

9:30 am, Education Hour @ St. Andrew's House

November 29

9:30 am, Advent Wreath-Making, Parish Hall
10:30 am, Confirmation Sunday

Want more information? Please contact Biz Loeschman via email: youth@saecheights.org, ph: 713-861-5596 or text: 713-305-4053.

Overheard at The Parlor

- Kayla Hitt and her mom modeled in a cosplay fashion show
- Human Hungry Hungry Hippos is not as easy as it looks
- The Parlor's animal blessing certificate table was a huge hit with the community: six teens shared certificate and drink sales duty. Thanks to everyone for your help!
- The Parlor is #Forever Orange and joined four other youth groups from Houston churches for the Dynamo's last home regular season game. thank you to the Cathedral and The Beacon!

Youth Invited to YES & Happening



The diocese holds two different weekend retreats for our youth and their sponsors: Youth Encounter Spirit (YES) for 6th-8th graders and Happening for 9th-12th graders. Both of these retreats bring together diocesan youth as a Christian community. It's cool to meet teens from Episcopal churches in Austin, Galveston, Lufkin and all over this diocese. YES helps foster a clearer appreciation of self and a deeper experience with Jesus. Happening helps youth develop and nourish a teen's faith in Christ. The next YES (#117) and Happening (#149) retreats are coming up--November 20-22. Registration for both retreats can be found online at www.epi-center.org/youth/ and closes November 13 or once filled, whichever comes first. Happening registration typically closes prior to the deadline, so register early! Registration fees include food, lodging, and t-shirt. Y.E.S. weekend is \$65, Happening is \$75.

Scholarships are available both through the Diocese (contact Andrea La More at alamore@epicenter.org) and St. Andrew's (contact the Rev. Jimmy at jgrace@saecheights.org or 713-861-5596). St. Andrew's and The Parlor are committed to our youth's participation at a local and diocesan level.

Children & Youth Education at St. Andrew's

Children Invited to Surrounded by the Story

Surrounded by the Story, Sunday school for Pre-K – 5th grade, blends storytelling and interactive lessons to create a place where young people can connect to sacred stories. Children are invited to the classrooms behind the Parish Hall on Sunday mornings during the 9:30 to 10:20 am Education Hour. The stories this month are:

- November 1 - The Communion of Saints
- November 8 - Daniel and the Lions
- November 15 - Jonah's Doubts
- November 22 - Isaiah the Prophet



Register for Nursery and Sunday School

When you drop your child off for Nursery or Sunday School for the first time, you will notice that we will ask you to fill out a registration form. The information you provide will help us keep our records up to date and alert us to any special information that will help us make your child's experience a good one.

Children's Music Ministry Debuts in January!

In January, we will have two new offerings for children to be involved in the music ministry of St. Andrew's!

St. Cecilia Choir (Age 3–1st Grade)

St. Cecilia Choir will be for ages three through 1st grade and will meet Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. The children will sing worship songs, play instruments and learn to sing as a group and keep a steady rhythm. Following St. Cecilia Choir, the children will go to Sunday School. The St. Cecilia Choir will sing for different Education Hour classes throughout the year and occasionally in church.

Choristers (2nd–6th Grades)

A choir for boys and girls in 2nd–6th grades, Choristers will learn musical skills such as breathing, vocal production and reading music and will rehearse anthems, hymns and service music each week. When the Choristers sing in church, they will lead worship along with or in place of the adult choir. Rehearsal time and place for the Choristers will be determined in the coming weeks.

Want More Information?

Organist and Choirmaster John Kirk will hold two brief meetings following the 10:30 am service on December 13 and 20 in the Library. Parents and children may attend to learn more about these choirs.

St. Andrew's Seeks Youth Minister

Are you the one or do you know the one? The one to build a Youth Ministry program at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Houston. A dynamic, diverse, urban church, St. Andrew's is looking for the one to shape a strong and vibrant community of teens, and develop their confidence, faith and spiritual maturity by working with church and area organizations. Contact The Rev. Carissa Baldwin-McGinnis, revcarissa@gmail.com. See job details here: <http://www.saecheights.org/the-latest-news/full-time-youth-minister-search9>