

# THE VOICE

JANUARY  
2017

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

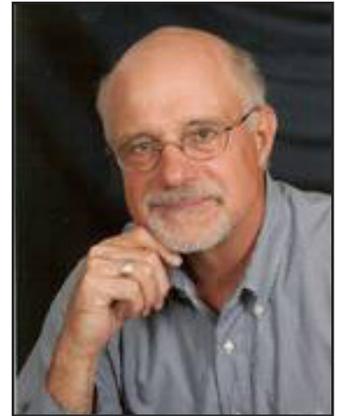
THANKS TO  
SUMMERHOUSE FOR  
FOLDING THE VOICE  
AND OUR SERVICE  
BULLETINS

Serving adults with  
intellectual disabilities in  
the Houston Heights.

summerhousehouston.org  
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## Reb Scarborough Chosen to Lead Discernment Process

The Parish Discernment Committee (PDC) has selected Reb Scarborough to lead St. Andrew's in its long-range planning work to begin in early 2017. Reb is a lifelong Episcopalian and has worked with three Episcopal dioceses and more than 40 Episcopal congregations since 2003. He is excited to work with St. Andrew's again after previously facilitating several events at St. Andrew's during its most recent search for a new rector.



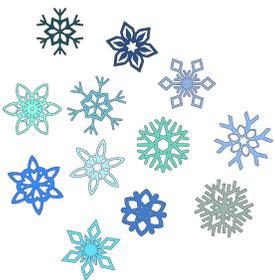
This decision was made after the PDC received and reviewed a total of four proposals from consultants recommended by the Diocese of Texas and others in the Episcopal Church. The committee interviewed two of the four candidates and, after a thorough assessment, determined that Reb was the best fit for the assignment.

The PDC was established to create an opportunity for the St. Andrew's parish to gather and assess where we are now and where we feel God is calling us as a church and school community. After deciding that the mission and values of the parish do not need to be reassessed this time, the PDC began the search for a consultant to lead St. Andrew's in a visioning event in which all will be invited to share their thoughts, hopes and dreams of what our parish might become. The work of creating a long-range parish plan will begin in 2017 and will be a time for all to contribute and share their thoughts and opinions.

PDC members include PJ Arendt-Ford, Richard Quarles, Jimmy Grace (non-voting), SWayne Mathis, Nancy Simpson, Lisa Mustacchia, Kyle Jones, Carissa Baldwin-McInnis (non-voting), Marianne Haynes and Mary Pauline McElroy. The PDC met regularly for the final six months of 2016, and culminated their work with the selection of a visioning consultant. While this stage of work has drawn to a close, committee members were invited, if desired, to continue working on the parish long-range planning process this year. If you have any questions about the PDC, Reb Scarborough or the long-range planning process, please contact Jimmy Grace.

## Don't Miss Our New Year's Snow Day

On Sunday, January 1, come celebrate a snow (play) day at St. Andrew's. During the 9:30 am Education Hour, we'll play hooky and enjoy cookies, hot chocolate and snow on the front lawn. Don't miss the fun!



## Join Us for Annual Parish Meeting and Breakfast January 8

On Sunday, January 8, all are invited to our Annual Parish Meeting where we review the accomplishments of the past year and look ahead to future goals. We will gather in the Parish Hall during the 9:30 am Education Hour for a brief meeting to update the parish on ministry activities and review our financial standing. In addition, we honor outgoing Vestry members and officially welcome our new Vestry members elected in November. During the meeting enjoy breakfast provided by the Second Sunday Breakfast crew.

## Thank You for Serving!

We are grateful to the Vestry members who have served their term: Anne Jones, Sarrah Moseley and Mary Rennie. They are stepping down from the Vestry in 2017, but will continue to contribute to St. Andrew's in many ways. Our newly elected Vestry members are PJ Arendt-Ford, Michael Bosch, Steve Oprea and Collin Ricklefs. We welcome them and look forward to their service to St. Andrew's.

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## Keep Up With Our App

Our mobile app is a great way to stay informed about meetings, events and programs at St. Andrew's. In addition, the app connects you with a range of spiritual and educational resources. The app is available for download in the Android and Apple app stores. Search St. Andrew's Houston and download this free tool.



App Store



Google play

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## Renew Kroger Community Rewards

You can support St. Andrew's every time you shop at a Kroger store by enrolling in Kroger Community Rewards®! If you're already registered, it's renewal time. Look for the email from Kroger with a direct web link or visit <https://www.kroger.com/communityrewards> and click the Re-Enroll Now button. If you want to start supporting St. Andrew's when you shop at Kroger, visit the link above and follow the steps to enroll.

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## Save the Date!

**Parish Meet & Greet**  
Sunday, February 12  
after 10:30 am service

Eat, Drink, Mix & Mingle!

## From the Rector

by The Rev. Jimmy Grace



It is one of the first things that you see when you walk into St. Andrew's – our lovely marble baptismal font. The font itself dates back to the 1940s and is rightfully considered a deeply historic and poignant attribute of our nave. The font currently resides toward the back of the church, just inside the entry hall (or in churchy language, what we refer to as the “narthex”).

For the past several months, both the Liturgy and Property Committees have discussed moving the font from the back of the church to a place closer to the altar in the front. After careful consideration and conversation, both committees have supported the decision to move the

baptismal font from its current location, to the center of the chancel, between the choir and the organ. The font will rest on top of the center of the chancel carpet.

There are several practical, liturgical and theological reasons for moving the font. I will begin with the theological reason first. Eucharist and Holy Baptism are the two principal sacraments of the Episcopal Church, and moving the font forward to the chancel physically joins the altar and the font more closely together. By moving the font forward, we visually say that these two sacraments are central to our identity as Christians first, and Episcopalians second.

A liturgical reason for moving the font forward is that the new location allows for people in the pews to face forward during the baptism. Currently, if you are sitting in a pew during baptism, you need to turn around and look backwards toward the narthex. The new location of the font will also create more space for families and children to gather during baptisms. At our last baptism on All Saints' Sunday, we baptized six people, and it was so crowded that it was difficult for everyone to gather around. More space will help all of us!

Finally, a practical reason for moving the font forward is that it will create a designated area for people in wheelchairs to sit. Providing wheelchair users a designated area indicates to them and to us that they are important members of our community.

The font will arrive at its new location the first week of January, in time for baptisms on January 8. We will hire professional movers to move it, so that there will be a careful transition of the font. The Property Committee has also carefully inspected the chancel flooring, and feels certain the floor will support the weight of the font. In closing, I want to express my gratitude to everyone on the Liturgy and Property Committees for their careful consideration of this idea, and to the Vestry for their support.

God's Peace this New Year,

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## Celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany January 6

The Feast of the Epiphany celebrates the arrival of the Three Kings (or Magi) at Jesus' birthplace in Bethlehem and begins the season of the church year that recounts the ways in which God revealed himself through Jesus (Epiphany is from the Greek, meaning “to reveal”). God, however, has also revealed and continues to reveal himself through countless men and woman throughout history and the present day. On Friday, January 6 at 7 pm, St. Andrew's will mark The Epiphany with a Feast of Lights service, which will recount the lives of several saints through whom God has cast his light in the world. Childcare will be available.

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## St. Andrew's Shares the Spirit of Christmas

St. Andrew's Singers caroled for a good cause. A group of our choir members and other singers performed a program of Christmas carols at Highland Park Care Center and Village of the Heights during December. Many thanks to the carolers for this meaningful musical outreach and to Anne & Kyle Jones for providing the inspiration!



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### *We Celebrate With*

Lizzy and Ron Dovich who welcomed son Nanthaniel Lindsay Dovich on November 21, 2016

Randal Fry and David Oliver, who were married on December 9, 2016.

New members: David & Claudette Milner, Ed Osowski, Devon Moore

Those received on November 20, 2016: Melinda Boon, Camille Boon, John Boon

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## Start the New Year in Sunday School

All children are encouraged to come and make new friends in Sunday School. Classes for older and younger children meet during the 9:30 am Education Hour on the second floor and new friends are welcome to join the group anytime. For questions about Sunday School and programs for families at St. Andrew's, contact Lisa Puccio at [lpuccio@saecheights.org](mailto:lpuccio@saecheights.org) or 713-861-5596.

January 1 – Snow Day

January 8 – Second Sunday Breakfast and Parish Meeting

### **Godly Play class for PreK through 1st grade:**

January 15 - The Story of the Magi

January 22 - The Parable of the Good Shepherd

January 29 - The Parable of the Sower

### **Creative Space class for 2nd through 5th grades:**

January 15 - Presentation in the Temple

January 22 - The Visit of the Wise Men & Escape to Egypt

January 22 - Jesus is Found in the Temple

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## Come for Sundays in the Parlor

Junior and senior high youth are invited to meet with our youth intern Katelyn Kenney each Sunday on the 2nd floor during the 9:30 am Education Hour for discussion and donuts. To learn more about the ministry, email Katelyn at [youth@saecheights.org](mailto:youth@saecheights.org).

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## Serve at the Food Pantry January 28

Volunteers from St. Andrew's gather at the Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry on the fourth Saturday of the month. Work begins at 10 am, and we assist pantry clients, stock shelves and contribute where needed until noon. The pantry is located at 3523 Beauchamp, near Travis Elementary, and all are welcome – no training or sign-up required.



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## Join Spiritual Reading Group January 9

The Spiritual Reading Group will begin a new book on January 9 at 6:30 pm at St. Andrew's House. Anyone interested in reading and discussing thought-provoking spiritual selections is invited to join the conversation. For details about our newest reading selection, contact John Grothues or John Ibanez, or visit the Facebook page for the *SAEC Spiritual Reading Group*. If you are unable to attend our meetings, you can join the online discussion at the same site.

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## Nursery Available for Little Ones

Our nursery is open on the first floor from 9:15 am – noon each Sunday. Staffed by fully trained caregivers, the nursery offers a welcoming spot for young children – infants through age 3. For more information, contact Lisa Puccio at [lpuccio@saecheights.org](mailto:lpuccio@saecheights.org) or 713-861-5596.

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*Daughters of the King (DOK) made Christmas gift packages for our neighbors in need. Visitors coming to our front door for a sack lunch were also treated to fresh fruit provided by David Roberts and the bags filled with necessities and treats.*



*The Houston International Seafarers' Center Chaplain Lacy Largent welcomed Bob DeCesare and his Christmas packages donated by St. Andrew's parishioners. Many visiting seafarers were grateful to be thought of during the holidays.*

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## Serve at Lord of the Streets January 29

As a supporting parish of Lord of the Streets (LOTS) Episcopal Church, we are privileged to help with the breakfast service to the homeless on specific Sunday mornings each quarter. It is an honor and one of the most fulfilling services you can perform. Our next opportunity to serve breakfast will be Sunday, January 29. Volunteers meet at Trinity Episcopal Church (1015 Holman Street at Main Street) from 7-9 am. Free parking is available in the lot on Holman, across from Trinity Church.

For more than 25 years, LOTS has been an integral part of outreach and support to the homeless community in Houston. In 2015, St. Andrew's became a supporting parish of LOTS and is making an impact in helping bring hope to Houston's disadvantaged. There are many ways that members of St. Andrew's can help support LOTS and its vital mission. There are daily volunteer activities that we, along with a dedicated group of volunteers and lay pastoral ministers from around the Diocese, can support.

For more information on LOTS, the daily volunteer opportunities, or to sign up for the next LOTS Breakfast Service, please contact Bruce Banta at [banta.bruce@gmail.com](mailto:banta.bruce@gmail.com) or 713-805-0065.

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## Making Your 2017 Pledge Payment

To all who made a pledge for 2017, we once again thank you for your support of our parish ministries and outreach activities. If you requested personalized pledge envelopes, those are now available and may be picked up in the Oak Table Room. You may add your envelopes to the weekly collection plate or mail them to the church. If you find it more convenient to make your pledge payments automatically through your bank's bill payment system, most financial institutions offer this as a free service to customers. This can be helpful for those who travel frequently or prefer to make payments electronically.

### Setting Up Automatic Pledge Payments

To set up an automatic payment to St. Andrew's, contact your banking institution online or by phone for specific instructions. Your bank will likely require some or all of the following:

Name: St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Address: 1819 Heights Boulevard, Houston, TX 77008  
Phone: 713-861-5596  
Account Number: Not required

You may set up a one-time payment or recurring payments in any amount, and you should also be able to choose the frequency of payments and the date(s) when payments will be made. Payments can be changed or stopped at any time. Once automatic payments are set up, checks from your account will be mailed directly to St. Andrew's. Checks received will be counted with our weekly Sunday collection.

If you have any questions, please contact Treasurer Chris Barker at [chris.barker@saecheights.org](mailto:chris.barker@saecheights.org) or 713-861-5596.

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## Join the Black Hat Bunch!

Our Black Hat ministry provides warm hats for those hungry and homeless individuals who come to our doors every day. Kits and yarn with optional knit or crochet patterns are available in the main lobby near the elevator. Take a kit, make a hat and return to the marked basket. These items help warm the bodies and the souls of those with whom we share our sack lunches. With the arrival cooler weather, it's time to grab your needles and get to work! Donations of hats, yarn and crochet/knitting needles are always welcome. Just place in the box that is labeled "Black Hat". Questions? Contact Priscilla Burroughs at [pk\\_burroughs@yahoo.com](mailto:pk_burroughs@yahoo.com)

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## Give to Others

St. Andrew's partners with several area outreach ministries to help our neighbors in need. We collect these items in the carts across from the elevator on the first floor.

- Canned vegetables, egg cartons and grocery bags (paper, plastic or reusable) for Heights Interfaith Ministries Food Pantry
- New, packaged adult underwear and gently used adult clothing and shoes for Lord of the Streets
- Travel size toiletries for distribution to needy by our partner congregation and larger size toiletries for other partner ministries



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## *Share Together at Parish Retreat February 3-5*

Families, couples, singles, young, seasoned and everyone in between are invited to escape the snarled streets & Super Bowl crowds for a weekend of fun, fellowship, family, friends & fresh air at Camp Allen in Navasota.

### **Friday evening, February 3 - Sunday morning, February 5**

*(you'll be home in plenty of time to watch the 5:30 pm game)*

- share preparing and enjoying our meals together
- share accommodations with family and friends in cabins that sleep 10
- share group activities and games
- share your cooking skills in the chili cook-off
- share thoughtful inspiration from Francine Young
- share laughter, share community
- share Eucharist
- while enjoying free time and relaxation in the piney woods



**The weekend rate of \$65 for adults and \$25 for children under age 18 covers all meals and accommodations. Day visitors on Saturday are welcome for \$25.**

Have we piqued your interest?  
More communications, info and details,  
along with sign-up instructions will be shared in the coming weeks.

***Save the date and get ready for retreat fun!***

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## 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.

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## From the Associate Rector

by the Rev. Carissa Baldwin-McGinnis



I will never forget reading Stanley Hauerwas' conviction of mainline Christianity - that it had become 'boring as hell.' If you do not know the name, Hauerwas is a revered Christian ethicist and Duke professor for many years. Combined with what others such as Diana Butler Bass have uncovered, namely that many mainline clergy feel stifled by the church as it is, leads me to confess that for some time I have been craving the renewal and refreshment of the very Episcopal tradition and church that cradled me.

Recently I attended the Episcopal Church's evangelism conference in Dallas, and I can tell you that the church gathered there was neither bored nor boring. The worship was lively, the disclosures were honest, the faithful were as diverse as the global human family. Energy, positivity and receptiveness abounded as we asked ourselves, "How can the church summon from the earth a fountain of good news to carry us forward into our own history?" Since Dallas, I have continued to wonder how we might make a future that energizes ourselves and gives hope to others.

As Presiding Bishop Curry said so well, "Evangelism has nothing to do with a bigger church. It has everything to do with a better world." So, the way I figure it, outreach and evangelism go together. Boredom and good news do not. As St. Andrew's begins its visioning process to discern ministry priorities for the near future, know that my heart and mind are discerning a call to be part of opening the spigot of good news and new life in the church. Boy, do I hope we can get into this water project together! I welcome your thoughts, conversations, study possibilities and more. Be in touch! Let's see what God may be calling us to do.

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## DOK Gives to All

Daughters of the King (DOK) were very busy during the holiday season, focusing on giving to others with spiritual and material gifts.

The group's first project was creating an Advent reflection booklet. Cathey Harrison and Priscilla Burroughs made this happen with the help of all who contributed an article or picture to be included. These booklets were given to each parish family starting on the first Sunday in Advent.

The group completed training for new members and held an installation for two new members and a rededication for all DOK chapter members on Sunday, December 4, 2016. The new members are Cindy Babbitt and SWayne Mathis, and the DOK are delighted to welcome them into our chapter. The group also hosted a Christmas brunch at Harold's in the Heights, which was a fun time of refreshments, food and fellowship, in spite of the rainy weather.

The DOK outreach project for December was an addition to the parish sack lunch program. The DOK stuffed Christmas bags to be given to those that come to our doors for sack lunches. These bags contained personal care items of all kinds, including socks, gloves, soap, toothpaste, washcloths, candy, cookies, assorted sweets and small Christmas mementos. The members had a great time and created about 75 bags.

All women of the parish are welcome to join the DOK. Ask any member for additional information or contact newly elected president Cathey Harrison at [catheyph@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catheyph@sbcglobal.net) to learn more.



## Communion Available To Go

If you are unable to attend church because of health or mobility issues and would like to share Eucharist with your parish family, please notify The Rev. Carissa Baldwin-McGinnis at [cbaldwin-mcginnis@saecheights.org](mailto:cbaldwin-mcginnis@saecheights.org) 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.

## Grow with Adult Education Programs

On January 1, St. Andrew's is having a snow day! All ages will gather on the front lawn for winter wonderland and hot chocolate. Then, we will gather again for the Annual Parish Meeting and Second Sunday Breakfast on January 8.

### Faith Matters – 9:30 am, Parish Hall

St. Andrew's embraces diversity and seeks to create an inclusive environment for its members. In light of recent national events and the deepening divide within our country, we would like to offer a three-part series on diversity, guided by the leadership and experience of Megan Gibbs.

- **January 15 – Dialogue on Diversity** - Engage in dialogue around recent national events and diversity topics. Our purpose is to seek understanding, learn from one another, share our experiences and start to bridge gaps that may exist between us.
- **January 22 – How to Talk About Diversity** - We will learn how to have conversations about diversity with others, specifically focusing on conversations about race, in ways that can be applied to other topics. Our purpose is to become more confident and able to talk about race with others, seek out different perspectives and build a more inclusive environment.
- **January 29 - Diversity and Our Faith** - We will read a short article about diversity and our faith, then spend time engaging in personal reflection, discussion and planning personal actions.



### Adult Forum – 9:30 am, Associate Rector's Office

This small discussion group focuses on the weekly Gospel lesson or other current topics. The group uses resources prepared by Biblical scholars for lay people to learn and discuss while growing in understanding God's word.

## Sponsor Altar Flowers

The gift of weekly altar flowers is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or special occasion. Your contribution of \$80 purchases our two Sunday arrangements, and donations in any amount are appreciated and will be acknowledged. Check the bulletin board in the rear entry hall for the Altar Flower Calendar and sign up for any Sunday. Then, drop your check for your sponsorship in the collection plate or mail to the church office – please specify "Altar Flowers" on your check. Contact Elizabeth McCormick at [eamack@sbcglobal.net](mailto:eamack@sbcglobal.net) or 832-661-7300 for more details.

### Holiday Open House at the Grace's



### Financial Snapshot • As of November 30, 2016

Category	Year to Date (YTD)		
	Actual	Budget	% YTD Budget
Pledge Payments	\$295,651	\$321,013	92%
Non-Pledge Payments	45,653	45,837	100%
Loose Currency	12,019	9,163	131%
Rhythms of Grace	2,924	1,833	160%
<b>Total Plate</b>	<b>\$357,247</b>	<b>\$377,8466</b>	<b>95%</b>
Other Income	80,184	64,586	124%
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>\$437,431</b>	<b>\$442,432</b>	<b>99%</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$455,344</b>	<b>\$487,804</b>	<b>97%</b>

#### Review of Actual to Budget

YTD Operating Income is approximately \$5,000 (1%) below budget  
 YTD Operating Expenses are approximately \$12,000 (3%) under budget

*We are a caring community of Christ that, by God's grace, nurtures faithful relationships & spiritual growth*



**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
**1819 Heights Blvd**  
**Houston, Texas 77008**

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Electronic Service Requested

**The Rev. James M. L. Grace**  
**Rector**  
**The Rev. Carissa Baldwin-McGinnis**  
**Associate Rector**

**CHURCH**

1819 Heights Blvd  
Houston, Texas 77008  
713-861-5596  
trish.mehrkam  
@saecheights.org  
www.saecheights.org  
Office Hours:  
M - F, 9 am to 2 pm

**SCHOOL**

1819 Heights Blvd  
Houston, Texas 77008  
713-861-2954  
standrewsschool@  
saesintheheights.org  
www.saecintheheights.org

<b>Worship Services at St. Andrew's</b>		
SUNDAY	8:30 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite I
	9:15 am	Nursery Open
	9:30 am	Education Hour
	10:30 am	Holy Eucharist, Rite II
	2 pm	Rhythms of Grace
THURSDAY	9:30 am	Healing Eucharist
	10:15 am	Bible Study
FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH	6:30 pm	Taize Service

**Trish Mehrkam**  
Parish Administrator and  
Ministries Coordinator

**Deidre Grawl**  
Membership Secretary

**Lisa Puccio**  
Coordinator for Special  
Needs and Family  
Formation

**John Kirk**  
Organist & Choirmaster

**Nancy Simpson**  
Head of School

**Bill Gilbert**  
Organist Emeritus

**Think Green!**

Did you know you can read *The Voice* on our website? Issues are posted each month at [www.saecheights.org/the-voice/](http://www.saecheights.org/the-voice/) To go "online-only," contact [communications@saecheights.org](mailto:communications@saecheights.org) or call 713-861-5596.