



## **SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

*The White Church on the Hill in the Heart of Northford*

1382 Middletown Avenue, P. O. Box 96, Northford, CT 06472

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January 19, 2020  
**ANNUAL MEETING**

My dear Friends and Parishioners of St. Andrew's,

I want to thank you once again for providing me the opportunity to serve St. Andrew's as Sr. Warden this past year. I am proud to serve alongside so many others who do so much for our church - those that serve on our Vestry, as acolyte, sing in our choir, set our altar and flowers, maintain our facility, help out with our many outreach programs and fundraising efforts. We are a small parish, but we work hard, accomplish a lot, and clearly care for one another and our community.

Bishop Ian Douglas visited St. Andrew's in February. And the Cluster Council worked with him and his staff several times during the year. As I mentioned in my November newsletter, we have agreed upon a future model of the Middlesex Area Cluster Ministry. We can now start putting things in place, starting with determining clergy for each church. This is an exciting time for MACM!

Our outreach continued this year, with donations of back-to-school backpacks and Christmas gifts for several families through Covenant To Care For Children; Thanksgiving basket share through North Branford Social Services; scholarship funds for a graduating high school senior through the North Branford Scholarship Program; eyeglasses and hearing aids donations for Lions Club distribution (4 dozen glasses, and hearing aids donated in 2019!); Boxtops For Education donated to Totoket Valley Elementary School; Plastic tabs for wheelchairs; and clothing and other textile donations for those in need in the U.S. and in many countries around the world. In cooperation with the other MACM churches, we offer peanut butter and other food donations to Amazing Grace Food Pantry throughout the year (969 pounds donated in 2019!); and provide Sunday Suppers at St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen several times a year.

Along with Food Pantry of North Branford residing on the lower level of St. Andrew's parish hall, St. Andrew's has expanded its feeding the hungry ministries with the Community Dining Room's homebound meal delivery program, which prepares and delivers meals, using St. Andrew's kitchen.

Of course, we need to raise money to help fund our outreach programs. That includes our annual Rhubarb Fest; Ice Cream Socials; and annual Harvest Supper. About \$3,500 was raised in 2019 from these fundraisers. And donations of about \$200 to our Angel Tree during Advent were credited to our Altar Guild, which typically runs on a shoestring.

Like your own households, St. Andrew's also has plenty of expenses, from heating oil to electricity, building and grounds maintenance, snowplowing, etc. We were able to add insulation to the Parish Hall this Fall, which should help with heating and air conditioning expenses. Therefore, we ask again for you to consider pledging your financial support for 2020 if you have not done so. Our pledges for 2020 are about \$15,000. If we can increase our pledges, more of our fundraising efforts can benefit our outreach programs to help one another and our community.

Thank you. I truly have enjoyed serving St. Andrew's as Sr. Warden, and I look forward to continuing in that role, if I may. I appreciate all your support and look forward to continuing to work to serve our parish, as well as our community through our many outreach efforts.

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Have a blessed 2020,

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