



## Candlelight Caroling

Friday, December 20th

5:00 pm

*It's a magical winter night of Christmas songs, celebration and cheer!*

*Dress warm, there's no heat!*

Our chapel is small and safety is our priority. Our door will open at 4:30 pm and seating will be available until our pews are filled insuring a comfortable and safe experience for all.

# THE FISHERMAN'S NET

The newsletter of St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea

Advent  
2024

Volume 33, No. 2

30 CHURCH ROAD, RYE BEACH, NH ~ SERVING THE SEACOAST SINCE 1876



### Dear Friends,

*The days are short and cold in the season of Advent, but we look forward to the annual Candlelight Caroling to bring light and warmth into our chapel. We are so blessed to be able to reunite with friends and family in December to celebrate the season with song and hospitality. This, along with the Blessing of the Animals in October, are ways we continue to share the beauty and spirituality of the chapel far past the summer.*

*We are incredibly grateful for Rev. Rob Stevens many years of devotion and service as Vicar to the chapel. He was an integral part of St. Andrew's and we will miss him. With our new Vicar, Rev. David Holroyd, leading us, we continue to enhance the presence of St. Andrew's in the community. I am confident he will be a strong leader and ambassador of the chapel as he takes on this important role.*

*I'd like to end by thanking all our 2024 season volunteers because without you nothing happens at St. Andrew's. We all owe a huge debt of gratitude to now former Chapel Committee member Corinne Baker and past Junior Warden Joe Walent for their dedication and service, and their continued commitment to the chapel. I want to thank everyone who has committed to serve, either on the Executive Committee, the Chapel Committee or as a volunteer in some way for 2025.*

*We are truly blessed to have such a strong community dedicated to keeping St. Andrew's a vibrant place of worship and fellowship. I wish you peace and happiness in this season of Advent and in the New Year.*

**Anne Richter Arnold**  
Senior Warden



St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea

An Episcopal Summer Chapel

[www.standrews-by-the-sea.org](http://www.standrews-by-the-sea.org)



## “SLOW DOWN, GET THERE SAFE!”

Advent is sometimes referred to as the most counter cultural season of the church year. At a time when life becomes more frantic as Thanksgiving and Black Friday approaches and there doesn't seem to be enough hours in a day, Advent invites us to slow down, take a deep breath and remind ourselves why we do what we do.

I personally love the pre-Christmas season. The music, the lights, the tree and the presents under it. Don't like wrapping presents though! I listen to Christmas music when I get up, and in the car, and when I get home. I often even have a letdown when it all seems to end so abruptly on December 25th.

But I also love the Advent Wreath when we are reminded about Peace, Love, Joy, and Hope as the four candles are lighted each Sunday and The Prince of Peace comes to greet us once again and invites us to new beginnings!

As you and I celebrate a new beginning as Vicar and People at St. Andrew's, may we too take the time to slow down and simply remind ourselves why we do what we do during a time when our lives can easily become frantic and confused, and our world can seem more chaotic than ever.

And I personally rejoice when the people of a beautiful summer chapel will dare to gather on a chilly Friday right at the time of a winter solstice to rejoice and be glad! So, what are you doing on the Friday night of December 20 for Candlelight Caroling? Why not join us at 30 Church Road in Rye Beach to SLOW DOWN at the end of the pre-Christmas rush and help us to GET THERE SAFE?!

Your Vicar, **David Holroyd**



## SLOW DOWN, GET THERE SAFE!

A few years ago, on an early Sunday morning I was heading to Christ Church in Exeter from our home in South Berwick. I pretty much had the road to myself. On Portsmouth Ave. in Greenland I was peacefully driving along with no cars in sight. Except suddenly there was a car directly behind me with a flashing blue light! I dutifully pulled over and the police officer and I began a game of Twenty Questions that went something like this:

**Officer:** Do you know why I pulled you over?

**Me:** I have a hunch I was going too fast.

**Officer:** Do you know what the speed limit is?

**Me:** I am not sure, but I suspect I was above it.

**Officer:** It's 40 miles per hour. Do you know how fast you were going?

**Me:** I'm sorry. I'm sure it was higher than that.

**Officer:** I had you clocked at 57 mph!

After asking me for my license and registration, he came back rather quickly. Having noticed my white clerical collar the conversation continued:

**Officer:** I presume you might be heading to church.

**Me:** Yes, Sir, Christ Church in Exeter.

**Officer:** Just SLOW DOWN, GET THERE SAFE!

The officer was very polite and very kind and generous. No written warning, no ticket. Just a very polite verbal warning.

It all happened right about this time of year. As I drove more slowly toward Exeter, it suddenly hit me: "Wow, what a great title for my upcoming Advent sermon:



## Planned Giving

Please consider making a gift to help ensure our chapel, the place you have enjoyed and supported for so long, is here for generations to come. If you would like to learn more about making a gift through a will, trust, retirement account, or life insurance to St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea please reach out and our Vicar, David Holroyd, [vicar@standrews-by-the-sea.org](mailto:vicar@standrews-by-the-sea.org) or Treasurer, Ken Hooper, [treasurer@standrews-by-the-sea.org](mailto:treasurer@standrews-by-the-sea.org) will be happy to meet with you.



## From our Junior Warden

It was another wonderful summer at our very special chapel-by-the-sea. The temporary tent over the Golledge Table set up in the spring made a huge difference in providing shelter from the elements and nice place to gather for our social hour after services. The tent has been taken down and safely stored for the winter but will go back up next spring with the hope that the pavilion project gains traction and gets erected prior to services in 2026. Our stained glass window restoration is in progress and we expect them to be expertly reinstalled by next spring. Updated and revised signage was installed at Ocean Boulevard and Church Road and maintenance of the sign support will occur before spring along with other minor issues noticed during our annual inspection of the building and grounds. The building has been secured now and is awaiting Candlelight Caroling when it'll be closed down for the winter. Many thanks go out to Greg Kann and Joe Walent for all their work and for helping me get up to speed with the duties and responsibilities of being the new Junior Warden. Keeping the chapel active and alive would not happen without all the many volunteers and contributors making that happen. It's a privilege to be part of this St. Andrew's community.

J.M. Lord, Junior Warden



## Fellowship

With the increase in service attendance this summer, many newcomers joined us around the Golledge Table and under the new tent for a vibrant season of fellowship. Our "keep it simple" form of hospitality enabled our many hosts to provide delicious food and refreshments for all to enjoy. Thanks to all who chipped in this year to provide a wonderful St. Andrew's welcome experience.

Looking to next season, I am hoping to recruit one or two additional people to help co-host Fellowship. This is a wonderful way to become involved with St. Andrew's and meet new people. If you have interest, please reach out to me through the volunteer form in the newsletter or by emailing [info@standrews-by-the-sea.org](mailto:info@standrews-by-the-sea.org) and I'll reach right back out to you!

**Dana Hooper**, Fellowship Chair

## Weddings @ St. Andrew's

Another wonderful wedding season at our beautiful summer chapel has passed. Every season welcomes couples who often have some connection to St. Andrew's by-the-Sea or the Rye community. It is always interesting to hear their stories and share in their wedding celebration.



Hosting weddings is a very important part of the life of St Andrew's. And there is no finer place on the Seacoast to hold an intimate, joyful ceremony. We welcome couples of Christian denominations and their guests of up to 150 people from mid-May through mid-October to hold their nuptials at our historic chapel. Please share this wonderful opportunity with family and friends. Our website is filled with details at [www.standrews-by-the-sea.org/weddings](http://www.standrews-by-the-sea.org/weddings).

We also welcome anyone who would like to be part of our Wedding Planning Committee to please join us. We work with couples as they navigate their wedding day journey at St. Andrew's. Please contact us via our website, [weddings@standrews-by-the-sea.org](mailto:weddings@standrews-by-the-sea.org)

**Sandy Gavutis**, Wedding Coordinator

## Treasurer's Report

It is with deep gratitude that I can report another solid fiscal year for St. Andrew's. Our steady income stream from service offerings, weddings and baptisms, and our endowment fund distributions allow us to meet the needs of our operating budget. These revenue sources provide for our visiting clergy and musicians, along with all the maintenance, utility, insurance, and most importantly, our outreach support to local organizations.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, we have been able to complete a number of large scale restoration projects over the past years. This year is no exception. Our stained glass window restoration project is underway, and we expect to have our beautiful windows back in place early in the new year. We thank all the donors who have designated special giving for this project.

Our endowment fund, professionally managed by the Diocese Investment Fund, achieved a positive return this year in line with the overall market results. Thankfully, we have a diversified portfolio of assets that we can manage on a longer term horizon.

Thanks to all the caring and generous members of our St. Andrew's community, we continue to maintain our historic chapel, provide worship and celebrations, and give back to our Seacoast neighbors in need.

**Ken Hooper**, Treasurer



### Visit Our Online Gift Shop!

If you haven't yet, sending one of our stunning Christmas cards shares the winter beauty of our chapel and greetings of the season with family and friends near and far. Sold in packs of ten for \$20.00 including shipping. Please visit our website for details and ordering. And while you are there if you are looking for a thoughtful gift for Christmas or any time of year, we have elegant chapel notecards, too. [www.standrews-by-the-sea.org/gift-shop](http://www.standrews-by-the-sea.org/gift-shop)

*Please consider making an important contribution to St. Andrew's. Please use the form included or by PayPal at [www.standrews-by-the-sea.org/giving](http://www.standrews-by-the-sea.org/giving). Thank you.*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check:  for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to St. Andrew's stained glass window restoration project

for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Community Outreach to be shared fully to those listed in the newsletter.

I'd like to volunteer for  Hospitality  Altar Guild  Eucharistic Minister  Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please add me to the email list

*\*All gifts are tax deductible as allowed by law*

*Please return this form to St. Andrew's-by-the-Sea, PO Box 555, Rye Beach, NH 03871-0555*



## Community Outreach 2024

Many thanks to committee members Anne Nettleton, Sandra Pagel, Sandy Gavutis, Liz Madsen, Martha Byam for their help with this work!

The Outreach Committee continues to focus on improving the conditions for families and children impacted by poverty, war and local disaster consistent with our mission. We continue to support organizations that depend on continuity of grants from year to year. We feel the missions of these organizations and their impact in our communities are extremely important.

- The need to respond to the tragedies and severe humanitarian needs by supporting The Episcopal Relief and Development for families nationally and in the most disastrous regions of the world.
- Support leadership through the Bishop’s initiative for the NH School of Ministry for clergy in NH.
- Given critical global warming and climate change, one of the highest rated organizations making significant contributions, “through technology innovation, policy change, and thought leadership, Clean Air Task Force drives impact to prevent catastrophic climate change through pragmatic solutions.”
- Lastly, due to the ongoing tragedies in the Middle East and the flooding in parts of the world, we supported World Central Kitchen’s food programs, and the International Institute of New England, who supports refugees.

The following organizations were approved by the Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Outreach Committee:

- \$4,000 GATHER
- \$3,500 HAVEN
- \$2,500 End 68 Hours of Hunger
- \$2,500 Seacoast Family Promise
- \$2,500 Thistle Farms
- \$2,000 Episcopal Relief & Development
- \$2,000 Common Table at St. John’s
- \$1,500 Hampton Trinity Food Pantry
- \$1,500 World Central Kitchen
- \$1,000 NH School of Ministry
- \$1,000 Clean Air Task Force
- \$1,000 International Institute of NE – refugees

### \$25,000 TOTAL

Thank you for the generosity of the St. Andrew’s community as we continue to reach out to those most vulnerable in our community & further abroad.

**Gary Fincke**, Outreach Committee Chair



## Notes from the Garden

The Garden Committee is delighted to welcome two new members, Lydia Meade and Kerry Blazon who join long time committee members, Donlyn Ray, Shelley Lord, Mary Ellen Dalzell, and me. Our ‘baby’ garden has come along nicely this summer with the exception of the Dragon Root which the bunnies seemed to adore. So those have been pulled and we will surprise you with something else next summer! The two additional Rose of Sharon at the shed that were added to the original transplanted from the front garden are all doing very well, too.

Anyone wishing to join be in touch with any of us - all are welcome!

**Martha Byam**, Garden Committee Chair



## Blessing of the Pets

We celebrated our third annual Blessing of the Pets, on St. Francis Day, October 4, 2024. The Rev. David Holroyd led this very happy and well attended event. And again we enjoyed very favorable weather. There were dogs of all shapes, sizes, breeds, mixed breeds, and ages. This year we were also joined by several felines, who preferred to remain in their carriers, as they were outnumbered by the canines. There were snacks for people and pets. If you haven’t attended, we invite you to attend in 2025!



## The Saga of our Chapel Bell & Tower

As written in the last two newsletters, we are so grateful for sisters Grace and Harriet Wilkes of New York City for their generous donation of funds to forge a bell for the newly built summer chapel. We learned that a grave mistake was unfortunately made and the bell, installed in 1877, was too large for a full swing in its bell tower. So there it sat, quietly, for 23 years until in 1900 the tower was right-sized and the bell could finally ring out for all along the Seacoast to enjoy. And how long did that updated tower last? 102 years! By 2002 much of the timber had rotted and the bell was in danger of collapsing. Thankfully the tower was successfully and solidly rebuilt by Preservation Timber Framing of Maine.

### *About our bell maker*

The Holbrook Bell Foundry continued through four generations of family until 1880. During its lifetime, the foundry cast more than 11,000 bells, which were sent to locations throughout the United States, British provinces, and Mexico. Holbrook bells were known for their quality and always received top awards when compared with other bells.