

*Gratitude:
Not only
with our
lips, but in
our lives*

It is hard to believe that we are now entering the month of November. It seems like just yesterday we were in the middle of summer. I am excited about the upcoming month; I have always loved the month of November, and I think it has to do with the fact that this is the time when we give thanks for all the blessings we have in our lives. This year we have two opportunities to give thanks. On Nov. 16, 2008, we will gather together for Gratitude Sunday, which is also when we will celebrate Saint Andrew's Day. By now everyone has received an invitation to gather together on that Sunday not only for worship, but also to share a wonderful meal. We are going to have lunch catered and all are invited. Please let us know if you can come.

The next opportunity to give thanks will be on Nov. 26 for our annual Thanksgiving Eve service at 7:30 p.m.. This is a wonderful service in that its purpose is simply to give thanks to God

It seems to me that both of these events are connected to each other. Thanksgiving is all about sharing. This month, we celebrate giving back to God. Actually, we are celebrating sharing what we have with the Body of Christ, the Church—since God does not need our money—but we share
Please see Vicar, page 3

GRATITUDE Bonnie explores the real meaning of this important word. **Page 2**

ALTERNATIVE MARKET The real spirit of Christmas giving, on Dec. 7. **Page 3**

Saint Andrew's Net

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Gratitude Sunday is coming on the 16th

During the services, worshipers will have the opportunity to complete their Estimate of Giving card for the upcoming year. Afterwards, please stay for a catered lunch!

By CATHERINE SHARBAUGH and ALONZA CRUSE ~ 2008 Stewardship Co-Chairs

Congregations that approach financial stewardship from a biblical perspective do not view the money Christians give to their church merely as a way to pay its bills. Rather, such congregations see financial contributions as a way to help people grow spiritually in their relationship with God by supporting their church's mission and ministry with a percentage of their incomes.

Our congregation's finance committee has selected the New Gratitude Sunday Stewardship Program as a way to teach the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving in our stewardship education emphasis this year.

This program is based on the biblical philosophy of the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. We ask you to approach your stewardship of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church as a follower of Jesus Christ who wants to give unselfishly as an act of discipleship and gratitude. We encourage you to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

During our worship services on Gratitude

Sunday (which is also Saint Andrew's Day, Nov. 16), we ask our attendees and members to make their financial commitments to our church's missionary, benevolent, and educational ministries in this community and around the world.

Every attendee and member who completes an Estimate of Giving Card does so voluntarily by attending morning worship on Gratitude Sunday. The procedure is done in such a way that no one feels personal embarrassment if he or she chooses not to fill out a card.

We will encourage participation in Gratitude Sunday events through the Gratitude Sunday team and Bishop's Committee members.

Thanks in advance for your enthusiastic participation in Gratitude Sunday events.

Join us on **Wednesday evening, Nov. 26, at 7:30 p.m.** for a **Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist**, as we give thanks for all that God has given us. At this Eucharist, we will remember our many blessings, be grateful for one another, and praise the one who has blessed us. This Eucharist is a wonderful reminder that all the gifts we receive every day are spiritual as well as material. **Bring a pie with you so that we may share a slice of pie with one another after the service!**

Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7:30 p.m.



Curate's Corner
 BONNIE BRANDON

May gratitude, that which 'unlocks the fullness of life,' be our November watchword

It's that time of year when there is less daylight, we set our clocks back, and the weather becomes a little chillier. Yes the season of thanksgiving is upon us. As we move toward Thanksgiving Day on Nov. 27, we also take the time all this month to reflect upon the many ways that God, the giver of all good things, has and continues to bless our lives.

An appropriate response toward God's grace is to practice the spiritual discipline of gratitude. A daily review of the abundance within our lives provides us pause and opens our eyes to a new state of awareness. It is truly important to notice such riches and not take them for granted. I encourage everyone to take a personal inventory: fabulous and faithful spouse, beautiful kids, happy pets, wonderful friends, good jobs, good health, and fantastic faith community. As we continue our practice daily, responding with gratitude, our list grows and grows until we are thankful for most everything from the first sip

of the morning cup of "Joe" to the vibrancy of the color of the grass outside. And through our practice of gratitude our lives are transformed and we experience the world in a whole new way.

"Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend. Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow."

—Melody Beattie

In these tough financial times, it becomes important to remember that we are rich, indeed! While my 401(k) may show a lower balance than it did just a few short months ago, I recognize the many, many blessings in my life, especially this parish family, and I am contented. I have so much for which to be thankful, yet I pray . . . Give us one more thing, O God, grateful hearts, so that at all times and in all places, we may give thanks to you.

1 Sunday combined, 3 classes the rest of the month marks new Sunday School schedule

By DIANA PACK ~ Sunday School Chair

We are trying out a new schedule this year, with the first Sunday of the month being a combined K-6 Sunday School with a fun game, activity, and snack planned for all the children to enjoy! On the other three Sundays, the children are split into three groups: Pre-K through Kindergarten, Grades 1-3, and Grades 4-6.

Each classroom's lesson plan follows the same theme as the lesson from church—allowing the children and parents to discuss what was taught together at home. The Sunday

school lesson is taught with stories, games, and crafts to help the children relate to and remember the lesson.

We are always in need of teachers to lead the children—everything is set; you just need to follow the lesson plan! Please call or e-mail Diana Pack at 949.861.3371 or dpack11@cox.net if you are interested in helping with Sunday School.

Also: Children, start thinking of the part you would like in the Christmas Pageant. We will be choosing parts and starting to practice at the end of this month!

Pop those tops in the North Room!

The Sunday School is saving pop tops for the Ronald McDonald House of Orange County. Several pounds of tops have been collected, but many more are needed. There is a big vase that is half-full of pop tops on the counter in the North Room. Please add to our collection by putting your pop tops in the vase, or give them to Diana Pack. All Sunday School children, please bring your tops to Sunday school the first Sunday of every month so we can count them.

There is a contest for the child that brings in the most pop tops. The contest will end on March 31, 2009. If you have any questions please contact Diana Pack at 949.861.3371 or dpack11@cox.net.



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The 2008 Bishop's Committee

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▶ **ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS:** All articles for the Net are due in the church office by the third Sunday of the month preceding the issue date. Or, e-mail the editor at kentks+thenet@gmail.com.

Netline

Diapers, baby wipes needed for Nov. outreach

Diapers and baby wipes are needed for the Adopt-a-Social-Worker program this month, according to Merrilee Gardner of the Outreach Committee.

The Convention Choir needs you!

Our Music Minister, Paul Sammon, is in charge of the music for Diocesan Convention in Riverside this year. The Convention Eucharist will be at noon on Friday, Dec. 5, and the celebrant and preacher will be the Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Katharine Jefferts Schori. Paul is organizing a "Convention Choir" made up of choir members from all the churches in the diocese. Rehearsals for this choir will be held on the following Tuesdays: Nov. 4 at the Cathedral Center in Echo Park (840 Echo Park Blvd. in Los Angeles), from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Nov. 18th here at Saint Andrew's at the same times; and Nov. 25th and Dec. 2 at the Cathedral Center again. This will be a wonderful opportunity to bring beautiful music to our Presiding Bishop and to the diocesan community.



A shopping alternative

Another fruitcake for Fred? A handbag for Harriet? Fine if they really want them, but if you're searching for more meaningful gifts, check out the 18th annual Alternative Christmas Market on Dec. 7.

Saint Andrew's is hosting its 18th annual Alternative Christmas Market on Dec. 7 after both services. Celebrate the season with gifts that are truly different. The market provides an opportunity to purchase gifts that help people worldwide. Please mark your calendars and bring your checkbooks.

The following organizations will be represented:

Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD)—Provides nutritious food, clean water, good health, care for children and families suffering with HIV/AIDS, new homes and opportunities for families to earn a decent living. ERD supports projects and partnerships with

Anglican churches throughout the world. Items such as mosquito netting, tools, and clean water can be purchased for those less fortunate.

African Team Ministries (ATM)—An intermediary ministry between African and American churches of the Episcopal/Anglican, Methodist, and Presbyterian denominations that provide funds for orphan and refugee relief, missions and evangelism in East Africa. Support is sent directly to each bishop to provide school fees, tuition, books and uniforms, ensuring that the children receive education and a measure of stability needed to rebuild their minds. Wood carvings, soapstone, and jewelry can be

purchased to support African Team Ministries.

Concern America—The Marketplace of Fair Trade that promotes justice and fair trade for families in Central America and Bangladesh whom Concern America serves. Through your generosity, many materially poor artisans will be able to earn a just wage, support their families, and keep alive their cultural heritage. Décor and Christmas items can be purchased.

Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation (PCRF)—Supports research that improves the care, quality of life and survival rate of children with malignant diseases. Christmas cards and ornaments can be purchased to support PCRF.

Vicar: Come to Gratitude Sunday on Nov. 16 with grateful hearts

► Continued from page 1

a need to give our money for the work that God has given us to do. It is this particular approach to what we know as stewardship that appeals to me. It is the approach your Stewardship Ministry Team has chosen and it is entitled "Gratitude Sunday."

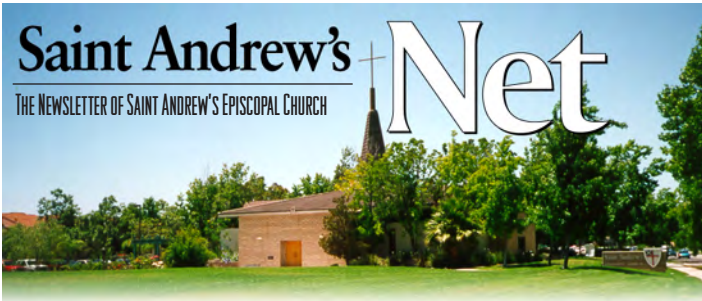
If our church was about pledging and tithing, I do not think we would accomplish very much in ministry. Since our church is not about that, but is about approaching God in gratitude for what God has done for us, it is much easier to understand giving out of gratitude. When I

think about how happy it makes us to give to others, I know that what I am saying to you here, I believe to be true. I know this is true, just as you do . . . because of what we have seen and experienced here at Saint Andrew's. All we have to do is think of those days when we brought forward backpacks to give away to kids all over Irvine, or when we bought a goat or a mosquito net for some family in Africa at our annual Alternative Christmas Market to know that giving just makes us feel good, that it has a purpose, and that our faith is

a living one that is based in actions done on behalf of the Christ that we believe in. The bottom line is this: we give, because God gave to us first.

On this, the beginning of November, let me say how grateful I am that all of you are a part of my life. Please join me on Gratitude Sunday and the Thanksgiving Eve service as we give thanks to God.

God's Peace,



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