**Looking ahead…Christmas is coming!**

Christmas Eve service with music & choir

Saturday, December 24th at 5:30pm

Christmas Day service with hymns & carols *(no choir)*

Sunday, December 25th at 10:00am

**And please note...**

The church office will observe the following schedule for the holidays:

Closed for Christmas

Friday, December 23rd *and* Monday, December 26th

Open for regular business hours

December 27th – 29th

Closed for the New Year

Friday, December 30th *and* Monday, January 2nd

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St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church

 **Announcements for the Week of**

 **December 12 thru 18**

 Monday, December 12

 10:00am Women of St. Andrew’s

 7:15pm Symphony Chorus rehearsal

 Tuesday, December 13

 10:00am Needle Arts

 Wednesday, December 14

 5:00pm Fellowship Dinner

 6:00pm Choir rehearsal

 Sunday, December 18

 10:00am Service of Holy Eucharist

 11:15am Children’s Choir

 4:00pm EfM class

**Advent Festival ~ This afternoon at 2pm!**

Please plan to join St. Andrew’s choir and friends this afternoon in the main church for a program of readings and music to celebrate this wondrous season.

**Things to know and ways to help**

**WOMEN of St. ANDREW’S – Party time**

The next meeting of the Women of St. Andrew’s will be **Monday, December 12th**. We’ll gather in the Parish Hall at 10am for our Christmas Party, which is potluck.

Remember that we also decided to all bring dry dog food or dry cat food to this meeting to donate to 4 Paws Pet Pantry.

**NEEDLE ARTS GUILD – Meeting time**

Needle Arts Ministry will meet next **Tuesday, December 13th** at 10:00am in the conference room at the church office.

We hope anyone interested in our outreaches will come – *receiving blankets and baby hats to the hospitals, the mini quilts and comfort/prayer shawls to let parish members and friends know we are thinking of them*. You do not have to sew to be part of this ministry!

**4 PAWS PET PANTRY – Restocking the shelves**

Our next distribution is fewer than 2 weeks away, and we **need your help to restock our shelves**!

\* You can drop off donations of dry dog and cat food at the church office, or…

\* Order directly from www.chewy.com to be delivered right to the church, or…

\* Make a monetary donation at the church office or in the offering plate on Sunday. Please be sure to note that it is for “Pet Pantry.”

Thank you for so generously helping the pets in our community!

**EMBER DAYS – Grateful for all our blessings**

Our Advent Ember Days in-gathering will take place on **Sunday, December 18th.** Ember Days are a time to give thanks for the bountiful "harvests" that God has provided us and give freely from that bounty to help others. Four times a year we observe the seasons' Ember Days by collecting food and funds to **support the Community Kitchen**.

\*Donations of non-perishable food can be brought to the church office throughout the week of December 12th-16th. Monetary donations are welcome as well, with a note that it is for “Ember Days.”

\*On Sunday, December 18th, you can place a donation in the offering plate, and there will be a box in the Narthex for food items.

**ANDY’S PLACE BREAKFAST – Help us to help others**

As we look ahead to our December breakfast, we welcome donations of all types:

\* Monetary donations help us with the cost of food. Please be sure to include a note that it is for “Andy’s breakfast.”

\*We also collect travel-size toiletry items to offer to those who come to our breakfast. You can drop these off at the church office or in the basket in the Narthex.

\* At this time of year, we also like to have some warm gloves, hats, coats, and blankets available. Please bring anything you can spare to the church office.

Thank you for helping us continue to help others.