

# ANDREW GRAM

News for and about members of St. Andrew's Church/Somerset Parish  
Princess Anne, Maryland

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## Slate of Vestry Member Nominations Announced

The date of the Parish Meeting, January 20, marks the completion of terms on the Vestry for Allan Green, Henry Brooks and David Warren. We are deeply appreciative for their loyal service on the Vestry

The Nominating Committee has announced its nominations to fill these three vacancies in the Vestry for the 2008-2011 term (a term lasts three years, from January 2008 to January 2011). The candidates who have been nominated and are willing to serve are: Carolyn Brooks, Valerie Hawkins, Jay Parker, Joe Pinto, and David Warren (David is completing the last year of another person's term on the Vestry and is eligible for election). As a lay member and parishioner of St. Andrew's you may take part in choosing new members of the Vestry. The election of new Vestry members will take place as part of the annual Parish Meeting on January 20 in the church immediately following the 10:00am service of Holy Eucharist. Also included in the meeting are reports from church leadership and committees, the 2008 Budget, and elections for delegates and alternates to the 2009 Diocesan Convention.

One of the hallmarks of the Episcopal Church is the democratic way in which every member of the church is involved in its governance - through the Parish Meeting you elect those who will represent you at the local and the diocesan level, and they are accountable to you. As a lay member of the church you are expected to attend the Parish Meeting, to learn about the actions of your church, to ask questions and to choose those who will represent you. Please make attending the Parish Meeting on January 20 a part of your spiritual disciplines.



Carolyn Brooks



Valerie Hawkins



Jay Parker



Joe Pinto



David Warren

## Newcomers Lunch scheduled for Sunday, January 27

Father David is hosting a Newcomers Lunch for all those parishioners who have recently come to St. Andrew's. This will be an opportunity for those individuals and families who are new to the parish to come and ask questions about parish life, the Episcopal Church, and to learn about how those new to the parish can become part of the life of St. Andrew's. The meal and the conversation are meant to be very informal. Since this is the first of what will hopefully be a regular event, you may wonder if you qualify as a "newcomer." As a general rule, those who have been coming to St. Andrew's for a year or less would be considered newcomers. If you've been going to St. Andrew's for a year or more and still feel like you're new to the church, by all means come to the Newcomers Lunch as well.

The Lunch will take place in the Parish Hall from 11:30am to 1:00pm. So we know how much food to prepare, please RSVP to the church office by Wednesday, January 23. If you need child care, please indicate that as well. Mark your calendar and make plans to attend.



# THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

This coming Sunday we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of Our Lord and so it is fitting that we will also baptize Rose, Katie and Lucy Adelizzi on that day at the 10:00 a.m. service. Please keep them in your prayers as they prepare for this momentous occasion.

The 1979 Book of Common Prayer ushered in a shifting of our understanding as Episcopalians of Holy Baptism. In the previous 1928 Prayer Book and in earlier versions, baptism could be done at the weekly congregational worship or in the privacy of one's home. Infant baptism was seen as the norm, and in fact most people were baptized as infants in a private service either in the church or at home. It was also seen as a naming rite, at the priest began the baptism by saying "name this child." It was seen as a rite of passage for infants.

In our current Prayer Book, we have come to a different understanding that is more in line with the Early Church's understanding of Baptism. It is now seen as the entrance rite into the Body of Christ, the church, the point in time where an individual takes on the name and the life of a "Christian." The 1979 Prayer Book in fact sees adult baptism as the norm, and in the rite adults and older individuals that can speak for themselves are baptized before infants. Because baptism is how one enters the church community, it is now only done as part of the public worship service of the congregation. That is because the congregation has a crucial role to play in reaffirming their baptismal covenant with the candidates for baptism, praying for them, and accepting them into their midst as new members of the church.

The Episcopal Church also considers those who are baptized as full members of the church and as such are able to immediately partake of Holy Communion. Previously individuals needed to be confirmed before they could receive Communion. But that is no longer the case. Baptism is symbolic of a person's entering into the communion of the church, and receiving Holy Communion with all other baptized Christians reinforces that acceptance into the Body of Christ, the church.

-Father David

## Ministers for this week's service are:

### LECTORS

Tish Lentz and Nan Sartorio

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTER

David Warren

### ALTAR GUILD

Nancy Stade and Kathy Beauchamp

### USHERS

Carroll Lentz and Nan Sartorio

### COFFEE HOUR

Nan Sartorio and Emily Leckey

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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|------|--|
| 1/20 | ANNUAL PARISH MEETING. AFTER 10:00 A.M. SERVICE, IN THE CHURCH |
| 1/27 | NEWCOMERS LUNCH, 11:30 A.M., PARISH HALL                       |
| 2/5  | SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER, PARISH HALL                     |
| 2/6  | ASH WEDNESDAY  |

To add or change your address to receive the AndrewGram, contact the Parish Office at (410) 651-2882 or [SomersetParish@gmail.com](mailto:SomersetParish@gmail.com).

[www.SaintAndrewSomersetParish.org](http://www.SaintAndrewSomersetParish.org)