

NET WORK

The Parish Newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

1502 Fourth Avenue
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May 2016

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"Creation"

From the
**Rector's
Desk**

As spring approaches, I look forward to welcoming long warm sunny days. I anticipate much joy in spending countless hours looking after my many flower beds. I enjoy playing and being in God's creation. It feeds my soul.

Recently while enjoying a cup of coffee as I was sitting during my quiet-prayer time, I reflected on the pleasure I receive in gardening. I also thought of the overwhelming issue of climate change and our irresponsibility and much indifference. I wondered how we can choose to be blind to what is taking place around the globe. But then again, many were blind to the person Jesus and his divine call. As I sipped my coffee, I pondered the beauty of God in creation.

During this process I wondered "What do people know of the creation stories in the scriptures?" and "How could learning about these stories enhance people's faith?" In response to these questions, I thought I might identify, illuminate, and impart some information on the creation stories in Genesis. In this piece, I hope to offer insights so one might integrate these in one's faith experience. I hope the ponderousness is inspiring. Without question, these thoughts touch the tip of an iceberg of various theories and knowledge which surround these stories. At the end of this article, I provide some charts that may also expand your understanding of scripture.

In Genesis, there are two creation stories. They are quite different. For example, Genesis 1 was written

in poetic meter, thus hymn-like, whereas Genesis 2 was written in prose. Many scholars believe that Genesis 2 is accurately the older account.

The first story, Genesis 1:1-2:3, is thought to be composed at Jerusalem soon after the return from the Babylonian Exile (500 BC). In this story, God is named "Elohim." This account was written by an anonymous writer or group of writers generally referred to as "P," or the priestly tradition.

The second story, Genesis 2:4-22 is also Judaean, possibly of Edomite origin. It is thought to be pre-Exilic (600 BC). In this account, God is named "Yahweh." The editor changed it to "Yahweh Elohim." This is usually translated as "the Lord God". This account was written by "J," an anonymous writer or group of writers who lived in the southern kingdom of Judah.

The order of events in Genesis 1 is chronological. The order of events in Genesis 2 is logical and topical, from man to his environment. Genesis 1 is concerned with the world whereas Genesis 2 is concerned with the relationship between God and humanity and explored through the image of a garden.

The purpose of these creation stories was for early civilizations to "Tell our story, how we came to be, and one's relationship with the creating God." These stories are not scientific or mythological. They represent sincere efforts of people trying to make sense of how humanity fits in the world. In many ways, we have lost this idea. Today, we often want the world to fit into humanity. More succinctly, we often desire the world to fit us – after

all, are we not as individuals the center of the universe? We use the world to meet **our** needs. We do not live in harmony with creation.

Genesis 1 describes how God created the world by bringing order to chaos. Here, the world was preexistent – meaning God did not create the world out of nothing (ex nihilo). Rather, “The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep” (Genesis 1:2) God’s role was to bring goodness and order to this world depicted as “formless,” “void,” “darkness” and “deep” – each descriptor is symbolic of chaos and “evil.”

During the six days of creation, God adheres to a strict pattern to create order: the first three days parallel the second three days.

On day 1, He creates light to create day and night.

Genesis 1:5

On day 4, God creates the sun, moon and stars.

Genesis 1:14

On day 2, God creates the waters and sky.

Genesis 1:6-7

On day 5, God creates fish and birds.

Genesis 1:20-22

On day 3, God creates in two stages, first dry land then vegetation.

Genesis 1:11-12

On day 6, God creates land animals first, then humanity.

Genesis 1:24-30

This Genesis account goes to great lengths to avoid using certain words that might be associated with pagan deities! What an insight! Unlike other creations, the author avoids describing the water creation as “good.” The author avoids using the singular form for sea (yam), preferring the plural seas (yamim), because Yam was a sea god in Canaanite mythology. The author also avoids using the terms sun (shemesh) and moon (yareah) to disassociate God from pagan deities. The Hebrew word for day is often translated as 24 hour period, yet it can also be translated as “undetermined period of time.” There is much conflict between literalists who see creation as actual seven 24 hour days and those who see a much longer timeline. Instead, we should focus on the image, God created and God creates.

The earlier account of creation (Genesis 2:4b–25) describes how God created humanity that the ‘first

man” was called Adam. Adam is the Hebrew word for “man” – אָדָם. It means “to be red”, referring to the ruddy color of human skin. It could also translate as “to make”. According to Genesis, in the Old Testament Adam was created from the earth by God (there is a word play on Hebrew אַדָּמָה ('adamah) “earth”). Some believe that god created one single man named Adam and then a woman named Eve. But, if we follow the typical metaphoric thinking and writing of the ancient Hebrews, we might consider the image – “In time, God created people from the earth and gave them life.” Instead of being literalists and scholars we should all consider one common thought – God gave us life and holy breath and that we should glorify this and live our lives, every moment of life, as if we are holy. If we lived in a state of acknowledging our holiness, would not violence decrease?

When the book Genesis was collated, compiled, corrected and formed into one long seemingly seamless account, the author(s) noted they had two creation stories. Logically the world needed to be made before humans were formed. So the newest written story became the first account and the later story the second account. In other words, the purpose was to make the whole story of Genesis flow.

Thus, in Genesis 1, we have a “top-down” creation story of the universe and the world followed by how humanity entered into a relationship with God and relationship with the world. We have two distinctive stories of early humanity trying to make sense of themselves and the heavens around them. We still undertake this task!

From these stories, we should give thanks to the energy, time and thought writers put into these accounts in order to help others make sense of life. In brief, we should celebrate creation. In other words, “God created and it was good and blessed.” Sadly, Christianity, from the 3rd century onward neglected this image for the next story, humanity being tested and falling in the Garden (this is yet another complex story). Augustine gave us the “doctrine of original Sin.” We have never shaken this foundational Christian thought. We focus on failure without much thought.

As always,
David +

Comparison of Creation Accounts		
	Genesis 1	Genesis 2
Duration of Creation	Six Days	One Day implied in Gen 2:4 <i>These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens. (ESV)</i>
Primordial Scenario	Dark, watery, chaos	An oasis amid desert
Sequence of Creation	1. Light 2. Firmament 3. Dry land 4. Plants 5. Lights in the sky 6. Sea and sky creatures 7. Land animals 8. Humans, male and female	1. Man (Adam) 2. Garden with trees and river 3. Land animals and birds as potential helpers to Adam 4. Women as the fitting helper
Method of Creation	God speaks, separates, names, blesses	God forms, breathes, plants, puts to sleep, builds
Portrait of God	Transcendent Sovereign over creation Some anthropomorphism God is called Elohim	Immanent Actively involved in creation Lots of anthropomorphism God is called Yahweh Elohim
Portrait of Humanity	Unspecified number of humans ('adam) both males (zakar) and females (neqevah)	One male ('adam) from the ground ('adamah) Then one woman (ishah) from the man ('ish)
	Royals, created in divine image given dominion	Servants made caretakers

A Comparison of Genesis' first Creation Story with Enuma Elish, a Babylonian creation story

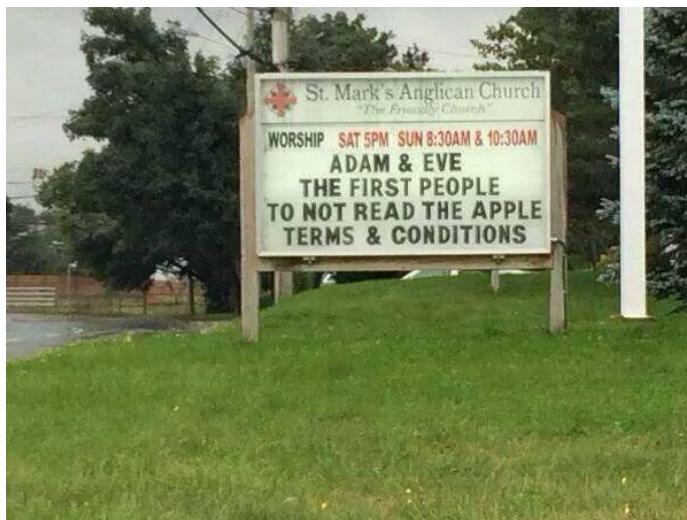
The Babylonian creation story is called by its first two words "Enuma Elish." According to archaeologists, it was written around 1120 BCE. It was discovered in 1875. It has points similar to the first creation story in the Bible:

Item	Ancient Israelite Creation Story	Babylonian Creation Story
Source	Genesis 1:1 to 2:3	Enuma Elish
Date of writing (liberal belief)	8th or 9th century BCE	Late 12th century BCE
Date of writing (conservative belief)	13th century BCE, the time of Moses	Late 12th century BCE.
Author (liberal belief)	"P," authors of the Priestly tradition.	Unknown.
Author (conservative belief)	Moses.	Unknown.
Creator(s) of the universe	A single God, YHVH.	A God battling a Goddess.
Initial state of the earth	Desolate waste; covered in darkness.	Chaos; enveloped in darkness.
First development	Light created.	Light created.
Next development	Firmament created - a rigid dome over the earth separating the earth and heaven.	Firmament created; also perceived as a rigid dome.
Next development	Dry land created.	Dry land created.
Next development	Sun, moon, stars created.	Sun, moon, stars created.
Next development	Creation of men and women.	Creation of men and women.
Final development	God rests and sanctify the Sabbath.	Gods rest and celebrate.

Text	Genesis 2-3	Genesis 1
Date	1,000 BCE - the time of David	500 BCE - after the Exile
Author	Yahwist	Priestly
Style	Folksy storytelling	Highly structured hymn
God	Immanent	Transcendent
Setting	Localized	Cosmic
This story's relation to the biblical narrative	Begins an ongoing narrative	Comes to completion in Sabbath <i>(but see the note below about the Flood)</i>

Places where the later Priestly story seems to be explicit in contradicting or rejecting the earlier Yahwistic account.

Creation happens through	Resolving a series of problems ("it was not good ...")	A series of days that are "good" at every step
Relationships within creation	Mutuality - especially before the "fall"	Separation of various domains & kinds
Humans created	Adam created from the earth	Humans not created from the earth (others animals are from the earth)
Gender	Gender comes later	Male and female created together
Plants	Some plants are off limits	All plants are available for food
Human's relation to Earth	Serve the Earth	Subdue the Earth
Animals	Animals are companions for humans	Animals' purpose is not related to humans
Emphasis on humanity's	Free will	Authority



Worship News



Sunday, May 1

**6 Easter / Birthday Church—UTO Offering
Rogation Sunday / Blue Jean Sunday**
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II/Family Service

Sunday, May 8

7 Easter / Operation Understanding Offering
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, May 15

Day of Pentecost
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II



Sunday, May 22

**Trinity Sunday
Recognition of Sunday School Teachers
& High School/College Graduates**
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, May 29

2 Pentecost
8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

Wednesdays — 10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist

1st Wednesday of each month includes Laying on of Hands Healing Service

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Pentecost Sunday May 15th

Pentecost, the 50th and final day of the Easter Season, celebrates the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles in the book of Acts, ushering in the beginning of the Church. 50 days after Jesus' resurrection (and 10 days after his Ascension), the apostles were gathered together, confused and contemplating their future purpose and mission.

On the day of Pentecost, a flame rested upon the shoulders of the apostles and they began to speak in tongues (languages), by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thus, Pentecost is a time to celebrate two important realities: the Holy Spirit and the Church. Pentecost celebrates the official beginning of the Church. It is one of the twelve Great Feasts of the Eastern Church, second only in importance to Easter. Pentecost always falls on a Sunday, fifty days after Easter Sunday (inclusive of Easter Sunday).



The Liturgical color for Pentecost is **red**. As we celebrate Pentecost at St. Andrew's, we welcome you to follow the custom of wearing something red.

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**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
ARE NOW PRINTED IN THE BULLETIN**

If there is someone you would like to include, please call the Parish Office by 12 noon the Wednesday before. Their name will remain on the list for three weeks.

THERE IS NO LONGER A SIGNUP SHEET IN THE NARTHEX.



Scripture Readings for May



May 01	Acts 16:9-15	Psalm 67	Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5	John 5:1-9
May 08	Acts 16:16-34	Psalm 97	Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21	John 17:20-26
May 15	Acts 2:1-21	Psalm 104:25-35, 37	Romans 8:14-17	John 14:8-27
May 22	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31	Psalm 8	Romans 5:1-5	John 16:12-15
May 29	1 Kings 18:20-39	Psalm 96	Galatians 1:1-12	Luke 7:1-10

When interpreting the Bible,
filter it through the larger
biblical theology of
“God is love.”

If where your interpretation
ends up excludes,
belittles, is violent, ignores
those in need, or allows
you to feel superior to others,
it isn't loving.
It isn't from love.
It isn't of God.



- Rev. Mark Sandlin



FREE COPIES OF THE NEW TESTAMENT
(COMMON ENGLISH BIBLE) are available on the
table in the Lounge. If you would like a copy, please
take one with you.



2016 Signup Charts For Flowers, Bulletins and Aumbry Lights

This is a great way to remember a loved one or
celebrate a special event. Signup to reserve your
special date! Please check the signup sheets
posted on the bulletin board outside the Parish
Office to reserve your special date!

Stewardship News

Giving Statements Available



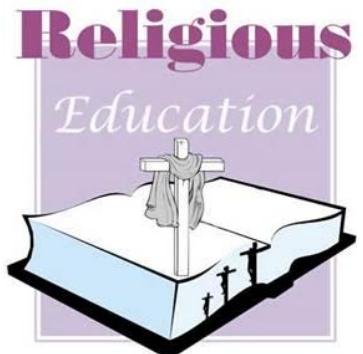
To those who pledge or donate regularly, thank you for your continued generosity. In an effort to help you keep your giving up-to-date, giving statements will be available for January to April. Please pick them up beginning on Sunday, 8 May. Those not picked up by 15 May will be mailed.

Barbara Mowery
Financial Secretary

Adult Education

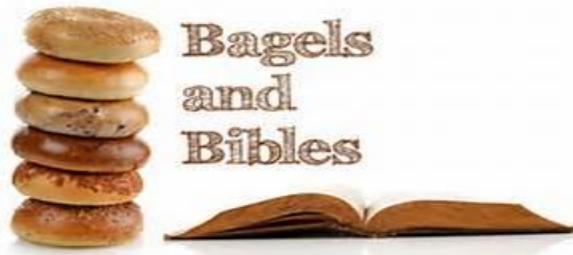
Lectionary **S**cholars
now meeting
Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
Godly Play Room

Led by Kathleen O'Malley and Eileen Sullivan, Lectionary Scholars are now gathering **Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.** in the Godly Play Room. Using the book "**The God We Can Know**" by Rob Fuquay, the group explores the "I am" sayings of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. A book is provided for each participant at no charge. If you have any questions about the class, please contact Kathleen (571-228-2534 / email: katomalley@comcast.net) or Eileen (804-248-7744 / email: EileenSullivan51@gmail.com).



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Bible and Bagels



This adult education forum meets in the Great Hall Sundays at 9 a.m. for about an hour and fifteen minutes. This is an "open group" which chooses topics of interest for short-term discussion. Currently the group is exploring Words... Words... Words.: Recovering the Biblical Meaning of Contemporary Words. All are welcome!

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"To Believe" or "Not to Believe"

English	Mark	Matt	Luke	John	Acts	Paul	Heb	Cath	1Jn	2+3Jn	Rev	NT Total
Verb: <i>to believe, trust;</i> participle: believer	14	11	9	98	37	54	2	7	9	0	0	241
Noun: <i>faith trust</i>	5	8	11	0	15	142	32	25	1	0	4	243
Adjective: <i>faithful, trusting, pure</i>	0	5	6	1	4	33	5	3	1	1	8	67

Outreach News

Birthday Church Offering – April St. Andrew's Outreach Projects

Your gifts totaled \$165.00
Thank you for your generosity!

Birthday Church Offering – May United Thank Offering

Your gifts will be received Sunday, May 1st

The purpose of the Birthday Church is to supplement or support various identified ministry needs in the diocese, our community and congregation.

UTO – United Thank Offering

Sunday, May 1st

SUNDAY MAY 1ST IS OUR UTO SPRING INGATHERING. UTO is an outward and visible sign to thank God for all he has done and provided for us. Boxes and/or envelopes are available on the table in the Lounge. Please make checks payable to the **Diocese of Central Pennsylvania – UTO**, and send or give them to our UTO Coordinator, Alyce Peiffer, at 63 E. Crestlyn Drive, York PA 17402. Thank you for supporting this ministry.



Lynn Robson

* * * * *



they discuss a wide range of family topics, spend time together, create fun memories, and are equipped with resources to strengthen their relationship. **The next breakfast will be served Thursday, May 5th.**

There's still time to help with this influential outreach! We need men helpers to arrive around 6:30 a.m. to support this Outreach Ministry. For more information, or if you are interested in helping with this outreach project, please contact Dan Rooney via email danrooney33@msn.com or phone 817-0530.

St. Andrew's Men's Club sponsors the **All Pro Dad's Breakfast for Phineas Davis School. The April event welcomed 53 people!** All-Pro Dad's Breakfast is a simple idea with a profound impact. This breakfast, served in the Great Hall once each month September through June, is held before school creating an opportunity for children and their male role model to meet with others. During this time,

Youth News

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.
Romans 8:14



Five young people from St. Andrew's were confirmed by Bishop Scanlan Saturday, March 26th, as part of the Easter Vigil at St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral in Harrisburg.

Alexandra Strausbaugh
Madelyn Strausbaugh
Cassady Potts
Hannah Potts
Jolina Morris

Congratulations to our recent Confirmants!

Attention Graduates!

Sunday, May 22nd during our 10:30 a.m. worship, we will recognize our graduates. Whether you are graduating from high school or college, we want to hear from you so that your St. Andrew's family can join in congratulating you. If you are graduating this year, please notify the Parish office by May 1st: Phone: 843-3868 or Email: secretary@standrewsyork.org



Diocesan News



Operation Understanding Offering Sunday, May 8th

Through Operation Understanding, the Diocese of Central PA has the opportunity to not only assist those in need through existing ministries, but also to create new outreach programs. Your generous contributions provide grant funding to churches so that all can share in God's glory through giving. Checks should be made payable to **Diocese of Central PA and earmarked OU**. Offering envelopes are available on the table in the Lounge. Your outreach giving is greatly appreciated!

Fellowship

Dinner for "50 Shades of Grace" Sunday, May 1st

Lisa Gandy is inviting "50 Shades of Grace" to dinner at her house Sunday, May 1st at 6:00 p.m. at 700 Florida Ave, York PA 17404. Bring your preferred beverage. White wine and everything else is provided.

Please RSVP to Lisa at glica@diamondcomics.com by April 28.
Lynne Kearman

Bits & Pieces

*Blue Jean Sunday May 1st
Following 10:30 a.m. Worship*



St. Andrew's wants you! Blue Jean Sunday is right around the corner and we are in need of volunteers to keep our church looking beautiful. This year's project will be a thorough clean-out and cleaning of the undercroft. All supplies will be provided. A signup sheet is located on the table in the Lounge. Many hands make light work. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Strausbaugh at dsbirds@comcast.net.

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We Celebrate All Women on Mother's Day

- ... you may be a new mother with a precious tiny baby,
or expecting your baby on this special day
- ... you may have an energetic toddler, an enthusiastic
grade-schooler, or stand watching your
teen grow towards adulthood
- ... you may be proud of the young man or woman your
child has grown to be, or thrilled beyond words with their happy
marriage and the blessing of grandchildren and great-grandchildren
- ... your precious child may be held in the arms of our Risen Lord,
whether or not he or she was born before entering Heaven's gates
- ... your motherhood may be known only to you and to our Lord
- ... you may be an aunt, a cousin, a niece, or a friend
who loves a child with a mother's heart



*All women are special today and we thank God for all of you!
Happy Mother's Day from your St. Andrew's family!*

Each time an unexpected discovery is made in the world of knowledge, it shakes the religious establishment of the day. Now, we are often taught that it is unfaithful to question traditional religious beliefs, but I believe that we must question them continually — not God, not Christ, who are at the center of our lives as believers and creators — but what human beings say about God and about Christ; otherwise like those of the church establishment of Galileo's day, we truly become God's frozen people. Galileo's discoveries did nothing whatsoever to change the nature of God; they threatened only man's rigid ideas of the nature of God. We must constantly be open to new revelation, which is another way of hearing God with loving obedience.

Madeleine L'Engle. (1980).
Walking on water: Reflections on faith and art.
Wheaton, IL., Harold Shaw Publishers.

NOTICE: Bulletin Deadline
Each week is Wednesday – 12 noon

Deadlines for the NET X WORK

May 15th for June newsletter
June 15th for July newsletter
Please mark your calendars
and be respectful of these deadlines.



If you have not been receiving the newsletter electronically and have a current email address, please email the Parish office so that we may

update our records. Copies of the newsletter are also available for pick up on the table in the parish lounge. Thank you.

Paula

secretary@standrewsyork.org

Parish Directory Update

Address Change:

Deran & Nneka Browne, 230B Friendship Avenue, Hellam PA 17406

RECENT ATTENDANCE

March 27	8:00 a.m.	33	10:30 a.m.	130	Wed.—10:00 a.m.	9
April 03	8:00 a.m.	23	10:30 a.m.	70	Wed.—10:00 a.m.	10
April 10	8:00 a.m.	33	10:30 a.m.	82	Wed.—10:00 a.m.	9
April 17	8:00 a.m.	28	10:30 a.m.	39	Wed.—10:00 a.m.	10

When I say I'm a Christian
I'm not shouting I've been saved
I'm whispering I get lost
That's why I chose this way

When I say I'm a Christian
I don't think I know it all
I submit to my confusion
Asking humbly to be

When I say I'm a Christian
I don't speak with human pride
I'm confessing that I stumble—
Needing God to be my guide

When I say I'm a Christian
I'm not claiming to be perfect
My flaws are all too visible
But God believes I'm worth it

When I say I'm a Christian
I'm not trying to be strong
I'm professing that I'm weak
And pray for strength to carry on

When I say I'm a Christian
I still feel the sting of pain
I have my share of heartache
That's why I seek God's

When I say I am a Christian
I'm not bragging of success
I'm admitting that I've failed
And cannot ever pay the debt

When I say I'm a Christian
I do not wish to judge
I have no authority...
I only know I'm loved

May Birthdays

If your birthday is not listed, please call the parish office.

- 01 - Michael Fritz
- 02 - Alexander Clark
- 03 - Stephen Vanaman
- 04 - Larry Troutman
- 04 - Joseph Duffy
- 04 - Dave Dunkel
- 05 - Mary Jean Wampler
- 08 - Priscilla McCaw-Jack
- 09 - Cali Snell
- 10 - John Robson
- 11 - Stephen Francis
- 12 - Jarod Tallarico
- 15 - William Reardon, Jr.
- 16 - Hugh Miller
- 19 - Charlotte Reinert
- 19 - Frank Youkers
- 20 - Linda Woodside
- 21 - Sandra Mann
- 21 - Louise Manzella
- 24 - Jacob Peterson
- 25 - Michael Beamesderfer
- 28 - Hannah Potts
- 29 - Jim Richard
- 29 - Lois Wilshire
- 31 - Gabrielle Jeanmenne

May Anniversary

If your anniversary is not listed, please call the parish office.

- 06 - Steve & Holly Weinrich
- 08 - Mary Jo & Sean Potts
- 10 - Robert & Virginia Sprengle
- 10 - Andy & Marbie Tarburton
- 11 - Bill & Susan Reardon
- 16 - Jon & Elizabeth Noel
- 31 - John & Mary Jean Wampler



Should you have any changes in your address, email or phone numbers, please call the parish office (843-3868) or email Paula at secretary@standrewsyork.org. We like to have our records as accurate as possible!

NET X WORK

A newsletter by and for the St. Andrew's community

Editors

Paula Beever
Nancy Bush

Contributors

Paula Beever
Bill Drusendum
Lynne Kearnan
Barbara Mowery
David Robson
Lynn Robson
Dan Rooney
Dave Strausbaugh
Mary Jane Watt

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

the Rev. Canon Dr. David J. Robson, Rector

the Rev. Charlene M. Leigh-Koser Assistant Priest

the Rev. Frederic G. Stevenson Assistant Priest

Philip T. D. Cooper
Organist/Choir Master
Sallie Francis

Director of Children & Youth Ministries

Lee Ann Reardon
Nursery Attendant

Gregory Sipe, Sexton

Harry Snell III, Senior Warden

Dave Strausbaugh, Junior Warden

Susan Reardon, Clerk of Vestry

Andy Krebs, Treasurer

Barbara Mowery
Financial Secretary

Paula Beever
Parish Secretary

Vestry Members

Nancy Bush
Dr. Elaine Douglas
Dan Rooney
Sallie Francis
Alyce Peiffer
Jolene Smith-Kingston
Susan Reardon
Harry Snell, III
David Strausbaugh

St. Andrew's Mission Statement

It is our purpose to serve Christ and his people through faithful worship, study, ministry, and mission, so as to reflect God's love for all.

**The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan
Bishop
Diocese of Central Pennsylvania**

Diocesan Mission Statement

We are partners in Christ with the love of God on our lips and in our lives.

**Diocesan Web Site
www.diocesecpa.org**