The Pen and Praise

St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church December, 2018



I want what I want, and I want it now!

Heard that one before? It seems to me that is what life has become. No one wants to wait for anything. We have fast food, fast internet, instant movies, live real-time news from anywhere in the world. “There’s no waiting on lane 147 (if you can find it)!” “Don’t wait for Black Friday; why, we have deals on November 1st, but don’t wait!” We hardly get to celebrate Thanksgiving (one of my favorites), and we almost don’t get Halloween, either. When “it” all starts on Labor Day, I quit!

In amongst all of this helter skelter, fast, rushing energy comes Advent. BAM! Advent asks us to slow down, wait, anticipate, think, ponder the event that is coming, the gift God is going to give us. It is like a good book—the plot builds beginning with the Angel and Mary, John the Baptist, on to the Shepherds. Even the innkeeper gets his moment.

Then, at last, the mystery is solved, the answer is revealed. But, alas, you must wait for that.

So come, wait with us. Put away the rushing, fast frenzy and hear the stories that lead up to the greatest gift the world has ever received.

Come! Wait! Listen! Receive!

-Beth Hamelund

Senior Warden

**Knitting Circle**

**Isabel Kempton**

The Knitting Circle will meet at 1:30 pm on Friday, December 14th, and Friday, December 28th. Please join us by the fireplace in the Parish Hall.

**Music and Worship**

**Bob Garrels, Director of Music**

This month we will use a blend of old Advent hymns and some new songs for worship. We hope this balance is pleasing to the congregation. If you have favorite Christmas or Advent carols or hymns which you would like to have included in a worship service, mention that to Kathy Filkins, Beth Hamelund, or Bob Garrels .

Thanks this Advent season to Coleen Dice who is coordinating the presentation of Advent dramas each Sunday of this month. The hymn selection committee helped her to pick appropriate hymns for each drama. Let us know how you enjoy this refreshing variation in our worship.

Kathy Filkins is the worship musician for Christmas Eve. If you have ideas for pre-service music, please talk to Kathy about that.

**Sisters of St. Andrew**

**Mary Martin**

The Sisters of St. Andrew will, weather permitting, meet Wednesday, December 12th at 9:30 am in the home of Mary Martin: 10053 Quail Ln., Canadian Lakes. The phone number is 972-3004. The topic for this month’s discussion will be Peace.