**St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church**

**Priest In Charge Report**

**December 17, 2024**

Although there aren’t many entries in my calendar for the past month, that doesn’t mean that your priest had nothing to do! Advent is that time of the year that is much like Lent. “Prepare the way” said John the Baptist…and that’s what’s been happening! Advent marks the beginning of a new liturgical year cycle and re-introduces scripture from three years ago. And with that comes a fresh look at our liturgy selections for our worship.

Advent and Christmas require different liturgies: changes on Sundays in the Eucharistic Prayer, Prayers of the People, Song of Praise, Post Communion Prayer, Blessing, and Dismissal. And, of course, working with our Music Director is essential! Our special services are what contribute to meaningful worship during these seasons. Unfortunately, our Blue Christmas service had no one in attendance. Preparations for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day have been ongoing for several weeks.

In the midst of all this preparation, the everyday tasks were still accomplished. I attended the regular diocesan meeting of interim priests; was invited to participate in the Advent by Candlelight program at St. Stephen’s, Troy; will participate in the Blue Christman service at All Saints, Pontiac, this coming weekend; and happily shopped for our Christmas outreach family. The Rector’s Discretionary checking account was established giving me the opportunity to confidentially help more people who are in need.

During this hectic time, it takes many hands to prepare for our worship; I certainly can’t do it alone! Many thanks to everyone and special thanks to Sherri, our Music Director, and Emily, our office manager, for all they do.

Blessings of the season!

Mother Sharon+