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Happy Holidays!
This month, our neighborhood has been transformed into a winter wonderland. From faithful to fantastic, classic to contemporary, and wondrous to whimsical, an evening stroll reveals a beautiful and diverse array of lights and decorations. Here’s just a sample from all across the neighborhood.

November’s community meeting brought us a wine tasting by Jack Brice – a fun way to kick-off the holiday season with friends and neighbors.
Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Winter Solstice, or simply want to lift your spirits on a cold, dark night, your neighbors have put on a show – go enjoy! You never know what you’ll find right around the corner. You can view more photos on our website (HPCCPgh.org) and our Facebook page (Highland Park Community Council Pittsburgh – like us while you’re there!). To share photos of your favorite decorations, email them to us at HPCCPgh@gmail.com and/or post them as a reply to the holiday lights Facebook thread.

And finally, keep in mind that the holidays can be a struggle for many folks, for many reasons. There are plenty of wonderful local organizations working hard to help others: Hello Neighbor (https://www.helloneighbor.io/), East End Cooperative Ministries (http://www.eecm.org/), the Greater Pittsburgh Community Food Bank (https://www.pittsburghfoodbank.org), and the Women’s Center & Shelter of Greater Pittsburgh (https://www.wcspittsburgh.org/), to name just a few. They can always use your support. For those dealing with hardships, the world can seem particularly lonely and cruel. Remember that

“kindness is a wonderful way to let another struggling soul know that there is still love in this world.”

(Anonymous)

Wishing you love and peace, now and in the New Year!

Stephanie Walsh
HPCC President
Fellow Highland Parker Jack Brice was back for our Wines for the Holidays wine tasting social. In addition to Jack’s love of wine, he is a Regional Advisor to the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board (PLCB) Wine and Spirits Advisory Council. The PLCB is one of the largest purchasers of wine and spirits in the world. You can follow Jack's blog here: http://www.jackbricewine.com/

Below are the Wine Tasting notes from the meeting:

Chateau St Jean Sauvignon Blanc
Sonoma County 2017

100% Sauvignon Blanc
Same grape as Sancerre and popular NZ whites
Winemaker/GM Margo van Staaveren joined 1980
Sometimes oaked = “Fume Blanc” style
Flavors like grass, grapefruit, and citrus

PLCB 6793 $13.99

Continued on next page...
Raymond Reserve Selection
Chardonnay Napa Valley 2017

Chardonnay – the most popular white wine on earth
Best known as “White Burgundy”
Expresses “Terroir” better than other white grapes
Can be oaked or non-oaked style
Mango, pear and honeysuckle with mineral finish
PLCB 79138 $13.99

Beringer Founders Estate
Pinot Noir California 2017

Pinot Noir – light and refreshing
OR rich and fruity
Most famous as “Burgundy”
Expresses “Terroir” but difficult to cultivate and vinify
Flavors of red cherry and spices
PLCB 7166 $12.99

Buty Winery Beast Wildebeest Red Wine Columbia Valley 2015

Blend of 42% syrah, 28% cabernet sauvignon, 20% cabernet franc and 10% malbec
Columbia Valley known for warmth and long season
Big, rich, fruit-forward with blueberry/dark fruits
Could stay in bottle longer for tannins to calm down
92 points James Suckling , 90 points Jeb Denuck
PLCB 79078 $13.99

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.
The next HPCC Meeting is January 16 at 7:00 p.m. at St. Andrew’s Church.
IDEAS TO RECYCLE YOUR TREE AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

Before you toss this year’s Christmas tree onto the compost pile or the curb, check out these ways to get the most out of an old tree.

1. Prop up your old tree near your bird feeder as a staging area for small birds, such as chickadees and finches.

2. Trim the branches from the tree, and saw the trunk into several pieces. Tie the pieces together and store the bundle in the cellar. This will make an aromatic Yule fire in your fireplace next Christmas Eve.

3. Create a bird feeder and haven. String your tree with orange slices, cranberries, homemade suet, and other bird-friendly goodies, and put it in a sheltered location.

4. Use the branches and pine needles as mulch in the garden.

5. The tree can also be used as the base of a brush pile.

6. Use boughs from your tree to shade broad-leaved evergreen shrubs, insulate perennials, or protect against frost and snow.

7. A fir tree’s foliage can be used for stuffing small fragrance pillows.

8. Sew scraps of fabric together and fill them with the needles to make fragrant balsam sachets to freshen drawers and closets.

9. Use dried-out sprigs to ignite kindling in your wood stove or fireplace.

Courtesy of The Old Farmer’s Almanac
Festive Cocktails for the Holiday

Sparkling Cranberry Apple Cider Mocktail

INGREDIENTS:
Apple cider
Cranberry juice
Soda water
Lemon juice
Sugar in a dish (for the rim)
Lemon slice or peel (optional)

DIRECTIONS:
Dip the top of the flute in water and then immediately dip into sugar dish. Add ¼ cup of apple cider to the flute. Add ½ cup of cranberry juice to the flute. Add a splash of soda water for bubbles. Top with 1 tablespoon of lemon juice. Garnish with a lemon slice or peel (optional).

From Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, Oregon
Winter Wonderland

INGREDIENTS:
1.5 oz vodka
.75 oz peppermint schnapps
.75 oz white chocolate liqueur
Candy cane
Red sugar

DIRECTIONS:
Mix and chill ingredients. Pour into a red sugar-rimmed martini glass. Garnish with a candy cane hanging on the rim.

From Morimoto Asia at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida
Holiday Spritz

**INGREDIENTS:**
- 3 oz Jardesca White Aperitiva
- 2 oz prosecco or sparkling wine
- 1 bar spoonful pomegranate juice

**DIRECTIONS:**
Combine all ingredients over ice and gently stir. Garnish with pomegranate seeds and rosemary sprig.
and celebrate New Year’s Eve without having to stay up until midnight! Have a wild time with live entertainment, fun crafts, and an early countdown to 2020 complete with a ball drop at noon. Facepainters will be onsite this year for complimentary facepainting! Event is located indoors at the PPG Aquarium.

Reminder, the Zoo is closed on Christmas Day (December 25) and on New Year’s Day (January 1).
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, indeed, Old Year to New, and in the Church, from Advent to Christmastide, 12th Night and the Epiphany--and through it all we of St. Andrew’s would wish all our neighbors a 2020 of joy and peace.

We will have two services for Christmas Eve, Tuesday, December 24, with a 4:30 p.m. Family Service of Holy Communion to include the Blessing of the Creche, familiar carols, and an informal homily. The traditional Midnight Service begins by candlelight at 10:30 p.m. with Service of Music for harp, organ, and Choir, featuring guest-artist Sierra Pastel, and then with the Holy Communion following at about 11 p.m.

For those who prefer a quieter service, or who don’t care to venture out at night, a Christmas Morning service of Holy Communion will be offered in the Chapel at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 25, with a capella carols, followed by a Christmas Morning Coffee Hour.

On Sunday, December 29, our regular Sunday pattern of services will continue, and all are invited to join us at our 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. services for Holy Communion on the First Sunday of Christmastide.

And finally, Choral Evensong will “ring in” the New Year as well with a Christmastide service sung by the St. Andrew’s Choir on Thursday evening, January 2, at 8 p.m. A recital follows, featuring soprano Maighread Southard-Wray, a much-loved Choral Scholar of our Parish Choir—and then we’re all invited to a festive dessert reception in Brooks Hall!

St. Andrew’s, in the 5800 block of Hampton Street, has been in ministry in the heart of this neighborhood of Highland Park for over a century. If you have a pastoral concern we can help with—a baby to be baptized, a marriage to celebrate, a sick or shut-in family member or neighbor who would appreciate a visit and a blessing, a family to comfort at the time of the death of a loved one, or if you simply would like to borrow a table—please feel free to give our Church Office a call at 412-661-1245. To find and “like” our page on Facebook, or to check us out on the web, standrewspgh.org. We’re always glad to hear from you, and to help if we can.

AROUND ST. ANDREW’S

By Bruce Robison, Rector
KITCHEN NOW OPEN!

5308 BUTLER ST. PITTSBURGH, PA
MONDAY-THURSDAY 4-11PM, FRIDAY 4-12PM,
SATURDAY 12AM-12PM
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Education – Dave Atkinson
House Tour – housetour@highlandparkpa.com
Finance – Glen Schultz
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membership@highlandparkpa.com
Newsletter – Monica Watt (412) 818-4702
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