



Oratio

Studium

Labor

The Standard

A publication of St. Andrew's Academy

Choir sings at Candlemas & Evensongs and Prepares for Germany & Croatia Trip

Though not as familiar to us as Groundhog Day (thanks perhaps to Bill Murray!), Candlemas falls on the same day as Groundhog Day (February 2nd), and in fact is a precursor to that now more familiar holiday.

The holiday Candlemas commemorates Christ's presentation in the temple at Mary's purification forty days after His birth. The aged man Simeon had been promised that he wouldn't die until he saw the Lord's Messiah. When Jesus' parents brought Him into the temple to be presented, Simeon recognized Him for what and who he was, and responded with the glad and rest-

ful song (now often called Simeon's song) which begins "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace." There, near the very end of the Old Covenant, Simeon saw the tiny child who was the beginning of the New. He saw the dawn of the New Covenant in the last days of the Old; he called Him "a light to lighten the Gentiles." And thus, Candlemas is all about light, and is traditionally celebrated with *a lot* of candles.

St. Andrew's Academy celebrated Candlemas this past February with a church full of beeswax candles (see picture on back) and a choir singing the Nunc Dimittis (Simeon's song—a recording of which can be found at the Academy's YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/standrews-academy>).

The choir also sang an Ash Wednesday, Lenten, and Easter evensongs. These periodic evensongs are in the evening hours for the public to attend, and the choristers have been pleased to have visitors and regulars join them for the music and prayers. The music has featured com-

poser Christopher Hoyt, organist at the pro-cathedral Church of the Holy Communion in Dallas, Texas, as well as St. Andrew's own resident composer, assistant choirmaster, and organist, Jared Tomlinson. The anthems have ranged from 16th century to Bach, and the choir is continuing to learn new music from that time period, particularly to take with them to Germany in June.

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Ordinary Heroes Save the World

A speech by 8th grade St. Andrew's student Aidan Fooks

“The brave things in the old tales and songs, Mr. Frodo,” says Samwise Gamgee in *The Two Towers*, while they are deep the enemy territory of Mordor;

adventures, as I used to call them. I used to think that they were the things wonderful folk of the stories went out and looked for, because they wanted them, because they were exciting and life was a bit dull, a kind of sport, you might say. But that's not the way of it with the tales that really mattered, or the ones that stay in mind. Folk seem to have been just landed in them, usually—their paths were laid that way, as you put it. But I expect they had lots of chances, like us, of turning back, only they didn't. And if they had, we shouldn't know, because they had been forgotten... I wonder what sort of tale we've fallen into?

In J.R.R. Tolkien's epic story, *The Lord of the Rings*, there are many characters who light a candle instead of sitting and cursing the darkness. It is usually easier to sit down and curse what ever you have to do instead of getting down to work.

In *The Lord of the Rings*, Frodo lights a candle and starts on a quest to save Middle Earth. He did not light his candle alone, he had help from eight other people. Darkness, however, was spreading all over Middle Earth, and there seemed to be no hope. In the beginning of the second book, the fellowship is unfortunately scattering. But they never gave up. Two are gone, two are captured by orcs, three go after the two captured and encouraged other people to fight against Mordor, and the last two went to Mordor to finish the quest—alone. Tolkien gives us quite a picture of tenacious fighting against the forces of darkness, lighting a candle in a dark place.

You see, lighting a candle in a dark place is one thing, but keeping it lit is another thing altogether. It is easier to light a candle and then pass it on, or give up caring, than it is to light a candle and keep it lit no matter what happens, and not give up and make the effort over and over again; the latter is much harder.

This moral is not just illustrated in books, it is also illustrated in history. At Thermopylae, just three hundred Spartans held a narrow pass in front of a Persian army over thirty times their size. They killed over ten thousand Persians over the course of two days, and would have killed many more had they not been betrayed by one of their own soldiers.

In the American War for Independence,



ence, it was very extraordinary that the colonists even stood up to Britain, a world power, let alone won. Washington lost battle after battle, but he never gave up, and kept his candle lit. It did seem hopeless but he kept encouraging and kept giving his all, and eventually, victory was his and ours. Washington said: “A people... who are possessed of the spirit of commerce who see and who will pursue their advantages may achieve almost anything.”

World War II is another example. The Nazis were taking over Europe, and Britain had been bombed and battered. At first, Hitler didn't seem like much of a threat to the European leaders. After launching his Blitzkrieg against Western Europe, however, the only Western European power left was Britain. By then, it seemed too late. Churchill, though, would not let them give up. He said,

I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. You ask, what is our policy? I can say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the that God can give us: to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: it is victory, victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory, there is no survival.

He continued:

We shall go on to the end, we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be, we shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender and even if, which I do not for a moment believe, this island or a large part of it were subjugated and starving, then our Empire beyond the seas, armed with and guarded by the British Fleet, would carry on the struggle, until, in God's time, the New World, with all its power and might, steps forth to the rescue and the liberation of the old.

Mr. Churchill kept his candle lit, and his candle lit others, and he never gave up until finally, the Nazis were defeated. Today there are terrorists attacking people—innocent people—all over the World. Isis and Boko Haram are particularly brutal. We need more people just like the three hundred Spartans at Thermopylae, and like George Washington and Winston Churchill, to light their candles and to not give up, but keep fighting, just like Frodo and Sam, who never gave up, no matter the odds, but kept fighting desperately all the way to Mordor, the very heart of the enemy; two completely ordinary hobbits who lit their candle and were chosen to go on a quest to defeat the darkness and save Middle Earth.

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Choir to Germany & Croatia

The next feat on the agenda for the choir is to continue the fundraising for the Germany and Croatia trip. On the trip, the choristers will be singing many services and concerts as well as doing manual labor for the camp they will be staying at and, perhaps a few of the Churches they will be visiting.

Bishop Gerhard Meyer in Germany, and Bishop Jasmin Milic in Croatia both heard the St. Andrew's choir sing last summer in Philadelphia and both invited the choir to come visit them in their home countries.

Fund-raising has included Spring Cleaning of yards in the area as well as candle sales and pie sales for Easter. The Croatian part of the trip really is dependant upon raising enough money (over and above the Germany portion of the trip) to cover the cost of the Croatian visit—transportation and food and lodging. Please visit our crowd-funding website to see a



video of the choristers and rundown of the trip and to help contribute to the trip: <youcaring.com/st-andrews-choir-germany>.

Bishop Milic (left) and Bishop Meyer

Grammar School Field Trip Reports

Winter Field Trip to the Symphony by Joshua, Michael, and Elizabeth

On January 23, a Friday, our class of friends went to Chico on a field trip to watch the North State Symphony. It was fun on the way to the concert. The favorite part of the symphony was the bass instrument when it played so loud and deep. Michael liked the March by Georges Bizet with the drums and trumpet (and the park after the concert!). Lizzy's favorite piece was the first; it was Mozart—he composed it when he was eight years old.

Fall Field Trip to see Alice In Wonderland by Joshua, Quentin, and Michael

On the way to Chico, we sang songs. The show was about Alice in Wonderland, who jumped into a hole. Michael liked the caterpillar—and going to the park. Joshua and Quentin liked the part when Alice drank the bottle and then she shrank. After then she could not reach the key on the shelf. Then she saw a delicious cookie, ate it, and then she grew normal size.

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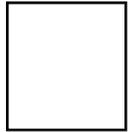
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Saying Goodbye

St. Andrew's is very sad to say goodbye to longtime teacher, administrator, intrepid traveler, and a dear and faithful servant and friend, Miss Allison Steinberg. Miss Steinberg is taking a job at sister school St. Timothy's, in Dallas, Texas. We hope for visits, and of course, we hope that she'll get tired of the heat and remember that she's always welcome back home again! We say goodbye at a farewell party on June 6th! Please join us.

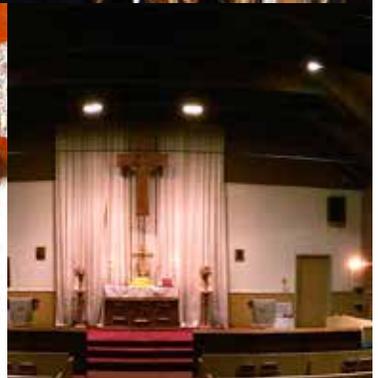


Speech Contest

The local Rotarians again held their speech contest at St. Andrew's Academy, and the school was only too glad to play host. In addition to hosting, however, the academy also supplied four of the contestants.

All the contestants gave speeches that made their professors proud. Miss Steinberg was particularly proud of her youngest Rhetoric student, Aidan Foos, who was too young to compete, but gave his speech during the judges calculations. It is reprinted in this issue of *The Standard*, on page two.

Congratulations, however, go to sophomore Noah Bartel for the second year in a row. He took first place, and then placed first again in the second round. He will now compete in the final round of competition in South Lake Tahoe on May 16.



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