

Community Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)
Of Drayton Plains



The Shield of St. Andrew

The St. Andrew's Shield is a white cross on a blue field. Andrew was a fisherman.

His name is Greek and means 'Manly'. He came from a town called Bethsaida.

A disciple of John the Baptist, he went to meet Jesus and became his first disciple.

Andrew found his brother, Simon Peter, and brought him to Jesus.

St. Andrew's Day

Historical Notes

The shield of Andrew carries an X-shaped cross. It is said that Andrew died in the town of Patras in Greece. To make him suffer longer, his enemies bound him to the cross. He lived for several days, dying at last of thirst and exposure. Like his brother Peter, Andrew felt unworthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus. He asked to be crucified on an X-shaped cross. This type of cross is called a Saint Andrew's cross in honor of the courageous apostle. Because he was martyred in Greece, Andrew is the patron saint of that country.

Andrew is also the patron saint of Russia. It is thought that he preached in an area which is now part of Russia.

In addition to Greece and Russia, Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland. The Scots' flag has a white Saint Andrew's cross on a blue background representing the sky. The story behind this standard dates back eight hundred years after Jesus' birth. There is a legend that a monk named Regulus took some of Andrew's bones with him on a missionary journey to Scotland. He settled on the east coast of Scotland where the town of Saint Andrews now stands. The ruins of Regulus' Church still stand there. The king of the Picts, Hungus, was doing battle with the English. The legend has it that Andrew appeared to Hungus in a dream and assured him of victory. The next day, a shining X-shaped cross appeared in the sky above the army of the Picts. The English were frightened by the shining cross. The Picts cried out as they went into battle, "Saint Andrew, our patron, be our guide!"

*We welcome you to our
St. Andrew's Day Celebration!*