

“Follow me and I will make you  
fish for people.” – Mark 1:17

*The monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*  
*Connecting us in community and in Christ*

**AUGUST 2019**

## Getting Found in the Desert

Last month our youth went on a pilgrimage to Arizona. For them this was the culmination of four years of work, programming, and planning. They will present a program on their experiences next month for the parish. While in Arizona, they enjoyed the beauty of the desert landscapes. Seeing the pictures on their blog reminded me of my experiences in the desert on the Sinai Peninsula while on a trip to the Holy Land. That trip for me was a spiritual pilgrimage, just as our youth's trip was for them.

The desert has been a place for divine encounter for millennia. From Moses, to Jesus, to Anthony and the other desert fathers, the seemingly lifeless landscape of arid wilderness has been the locale of meaningful encounters with the divine presence. It is ironic that such powerful experiences occur in such inhospitable places. Deserts are dangerous. They are full of creatures that may harm us. The weather is often extreme. The lack of food, water, shelter, and other necessities make them a place to be avoided, unless one is well prepared. Still, in the midst of such a harsh environment one could find a burning bush, a ministering angel, or a guiding vision.

It may be that we find ourselves close to God in the desert because we also find ourselves close to temptation and death. Only there, where we encounter our own demons, can we truly be open to encounter God. It may also be that the journey through the desert itself opens us up to God's presence. What I found on my pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and what I believe our youth found in Arizona, is that the very act of

embarking on a pilgrimage, of setting out on a spiritual journey, seeking and expecting to encounter God along the way, creates an attitude of openness and acceptance that gives God the opportunity to reach us.

Another thing about pilgrimage in the desert, the journey can be difficult. Therefore, one must choose wisely what one brings along. Along the way we may discover that we are carrying excess baggage. It may become necessary to let some stuff go in order to reach our goal. We discover quickly on a desert trek what is needed and what is not. Anything that weighs us down or slows our progress must be dropped along the way. It must not be allowed to prevent us from getting to where we want to be.

A desert journey makes a great metaphor for the spiritual life. I am delighted that our youth got the opportunity to spend some time in an unfamiliar and even uncomfortable place so they could intentionally seek an encounter with God. Maybe the rest of us can take a few cues from them. Putting one's self on a journey, or in a situation, or at least in the right frame of mind to be open to God's power and presence can be done closer to home too. We can take mini pilgrimages anytime. It could be as simple as pausing at some point during your day and praying that God manifest his presence in your life today.

I hope you'll join me on Sunday, September 8 for a special breakfast between our morning services and a presentation by the youth who went on the pilgrimage this summer. They will tell us about how they encountered God in the desert.





**June 2019**

			<b>% of</b>	<b>2019</b>
	<b>May</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>BUDGET</b>
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 32,588	\$ 247,206	53%	\$ 462,261
Total Income	\$ 34,783	\$ 267,184	50%	\$ 530,384
Total Expense	\$ 35,143	\$ 264,566	50%	\$ 530,384
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (360)	\$ 2,618		

\*Includes pledges, plate offerings, and special holiday offerings.



**July 2019**

The July vestry meeting was held on Tuesday, July 9. The parish's net operating income for June was still lower than our monthly expenses, but not nearly as dramatically as in previous months. Our year-to-date situation is still positive. Vestry sincerely thanks all parishioners for their monthly pledges and contributions. One other financial situation of note is that our Parishioner's Ministry, which makes small financial grants to individuals in need, particularly for housing and utility costs, has been quickly running out of its monthly budget lately due to increased need in our community. Please prayerfully consider whether you are able to make a donation to Parishioner's Ministry in order to increase this ministry's ability to help our neighbors.

At the July meeting the vestry continued its discussion of the book *The Agile Church*, in the context of beginning its strategic planning process, and had a good conversation about priorities, abilities, and the future outlook of the church. The vestry also began examining the parish's responses to the four questions that were posted on the walls of the church earlier in the summer. We are grateful to parishioners for taking the questions to heart. Vestry also approved some proposals from the Community Café board, including a request to make some needed upgrades to the Canterbury Hall kitchen.

As always, approved vestry minutes are available on our website (“Clergy, Staff & Vestry” under the “About Us” tab), and parishioners are always welcome to attend vestry meetings. Meetings are scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm in room 324.

## OVER THE EDGE



Thursday, October 17  
Fraser Centre  
219 W. Beaver Avenue



Again this year, Interfaith Human Services and FaithCentre will be raising money for the important work that they do with an Over the Edge event. For the opportunity to rappel down the side of the 12-story Fraser Centre, participants commit to raising \$1,000 in donations for the charities. This year's overall goal is \$109,000.

St. Andrew's is represented in this effort by Fr. Jeff, who was one of the top money raisers last year, and for his first time, our Senior Warden, Steven Smith! Because they have registered as a team, Fr. Jeff and Steven need to raise a combined total of \$2,000 to go over the edge. St. Andrew's has contributed matching funds of \$1,000 from the Kathy Palmer fund leaving only \$1,000 to raise. You can see the current fundraising totals below. There is still a lot of time from now until October, and we can surely raise more than the minimum by then.

### TO DONATE

A donation to either "Edger" supports both and benefits IHS and FaithCentre. But a little friendly competition couldn't hurt!

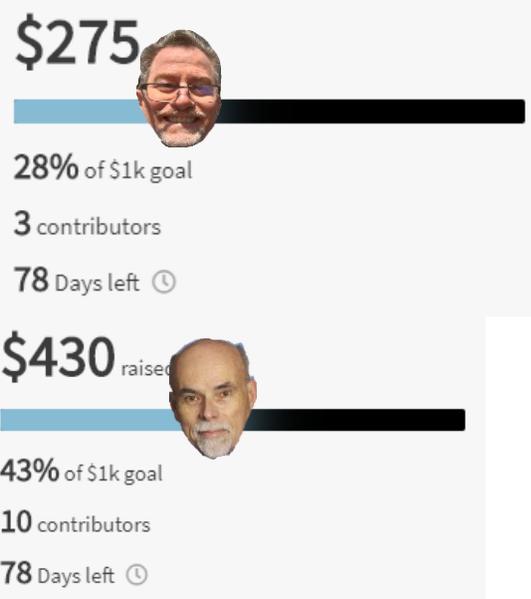
To donate to:

**Fr. Jeff**, go to:

<http://bit.ly/FrJeffOvertheEdge>

**Steven Smith**, go to:

<http://bit.ly/StevenSmithOvertheEdge>



### About Interfaith Human Services

Interfaith Human Services provides financial care, assistance with utilities, and household management to low-income individuals and families in Centre County.

### About FaithCentre

The FaithCentre is a Christian faith-based umbrella of services that is available to all persons in our service area. Through our Food Bank, Pet Food Pantry, clothing voucher, and emergency financial aid programs, we offer material assistance to our neighbors in need so that they may experience the grace of God and the hope that comes from receiving a helping hand.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ADULT CONFIRMATION CLASS

13 weeks, beginning Friday, September 19  
Canterbury Hall

Would you like to get confirmed? Class for adults beginning on September 19 and continuing for 13 weeks. Our bishop will visit in the spring again next year when she will celebrate Confirmations and Receptions. The class covers the basics of the Christian Faith and the Episcopal Church. Anyone can participate, even if you are just looking for a refresher. Speak to, or email, Father Packard if you are interested in the class.



### NEW NURSERY COORDINATOR

Welcome to our new Nursery Coordinator, **Natalie Gahm!**

Natalie moved to State College in 2018. A cradle Episcopalian, her fond memories of attending services with her mom and grandma in her home state of Maryland led her to look for Episcopal churches in State College. Natalie is “so grateful to have found St. Andrew’s!” As an adult, church “brings a calmness and peace to [her] soul” that she has sought and struggled to attain.

Natalie attends the 8 o’clock service and loves the “old-fashioned” language and simplicity of Rite I, and of course the “warmth, charm, and personalities of [her] fellow eight-o’clockers!”

If you have a child in the nursery, you may be hearing some insect facts mixed in with the Bible stories this year. Natalie has degrees in Entomology and has worked in both research and outreach and education at Oklahoma State, University of Maryland Extension, and most recently Penn State. Despite this, she was not always interested in insects.

“No, despite briefly hoarding praying mantids as a child and having a lifelong phobia of wasps (STILL DO), I didn’t develop my passion for entomology until the summer of 2009 when I examined a dragonfly up close for the first time and realized that, by studying insects, I would never run out of fascinating things to learn! I love identifying insects and educating inquiring minds, so please feel free to bring me your questions and creepy crawlies, fellow parishioners! “ Her favorite insect is the leafhopper (“I just adore those little guys!”) with the mantidfly a close second (“something about them just feels magical when you get to actually see one out in nature, and their larvae have a really cool relationship with spiders!”)

Some other things you may not know about Natalie:

- she has “never intentionally eaten insects for a meal, snack, excitement, or extra credit (entomology professors are an adventurous bunch!), we’ve all unintentionally eaten them because the FDA actually allows a certain amount of insect fragments in our everyday foods!”



- she has a cat, Cayenne (“the most beautiful tabby you’ll ever see”) and that she and her fiancé recently adopted a senior Turkish Angora, named Zeus.
- she loves photographing severe storms! “I lived in Missouri and Oklahoma for ten years and I miss the exciting weather so much! Hands down, my coolest, most surreal experience was getting to witness and chase a tornado that came through Stillwater while I was a graduate student at OSU!”

We are happy to have Natalie in the nursery sharing her gifts of organization, energy, humor, and enthusiasm with our youngest parishioners. Please stop by to welcome her

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Sunday, September 8

9:00 a.m.

Canterbury Hall

Come join us as we celebrate the beginning of a new year of learning and growing in our faith together. We will share a light continental breakfast and then gather to hear our St. Andrew’s pilgrims (youth from grades 9-11) share reflections and images from their June pilgrimage to Arizona.

**Sunday School classes** will have their first meeting at 10 a.m. before coming to the sanctuary for a Children’s Sermon. **Youth classes** will gather for the first time this Sunday as well, after the 10 a.m. service from 11:15-12:15 p.m.

**Backpack Blessing.** Also as part of our kick-off on September 8, *everyone* is invited to bring their backpacks, briefcases or school/work bags of any kind to receive a blessing from Fr. Jeff Packard! This is a special reminder that God is with us as we go about the business of our days, and an important shot of courage for the younger among us who will be entering new school routines.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH CLASSES

We are gearing up for another full year of sharing God’s love with one another in our education programs for children and youth! Emails have been picking up momentum as September approaches, and soon we will be busy in classrooms and getting together to talk about our goals and plans for the year!

If you feel called to join the effort, please send an email to Kathy Hickner at [youth@standrewsc.org](mailto:youth@standrewsc.org). We are still in need of teachers for one year with our Journey Middle youth group (grades 7 and 8).

## Godly Play

Ages 3 – 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Room 338, 10 a.m. until Communion

## 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Class

Grades 3 – 6, Room 335, 10 a.m. until Communion

## Journey Middle

Grades 7 and 8, Room 330, 11:15 a.m. (or immediately after the 10 a.m. service) – 12:15 p.m.

## Confirmation

Grades 9 – 11, Room 119, 11:15 a.m. (or immediately after the 10 a.m. service) – 12:15 p.m.

## THE PILGRIMS' RETURN!

Our group of 14 St. Andrew's youth and leaders returned from their Arizona pilgrimage Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> after a big, rich time in the desert. Thank you so much for your support of this group!

If you haven't had a chance to read the youth-written blog posts, they are definitely worth a look!

[www.standrewsc.wordpress.com/](http://www.standrewsc.wordpress.com/)



Special thanks to St. Andrew's Daughters of the King group for carrying out a secret prayer partner effort for these young people! Each Daughter committed to pray for one of the pilgrims before and during pilgrimage, and then wrote notes to them which they opened in Arizona mid-week.

Please come hear more about the trip at the Fall Kick-Off on Sunday September 8 at 9 a.m. The pilgrims will share reflections and photos from their journey!

## COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Café is open every Thursday from 5 p.m.- 7 p.m.

Everyone is welcome regardless of means or circumstances.

Donations are accepted, but are never expected.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ron Rovanseck at (714) 514-8875

*Thank you as always for supporting the Café.*

**Planting an extra row** The Café relies heavily on donations for fresh ingredients and we know St. Andrew's is full of avid gardeners. Please consider planting an extra row of vegetables or fruit in your home garden for donation. The chefs would love to have your eggplant, tomatoes, watermelon, peppers and anything else you can spare for use in their soups, salads and entrees. The Café also boasts a take-home table; items not used in the meals will go on that table for patrons to take with them. Please label and drop off your donations during the week in the Canterbury Hall kitchen.



## UPCOMING

### PRAYER AND PICNIC IN THE PARK

Sunday, August 4  
Circleville Park, Pavilion #4  
5:00 p.m.

Join us Sunday evening, August 4, as we celebrate our 5:00 Eucharist outdoors at Circleville Park, Pavilion #4. The service will be followed by a potluck supper. Picnic tables are provided, but please bring a chair if you would prefer and a dish of your choice to share. All are welcome.



For directions to Circleville Park, click [here](#).

### YOUTH CHOIR LUNCH

Sunday, August 25  
Room 325  
11:15 a.m. (following 10 a.m. service)

Summer is fast running away from us and September will soon be here. As we prepare for the new choir season, We would like to invite all interested children (ages 7 to 14) AND their parents to a lunch after the 10 a.m. service at on August 25th. All food and drink will be provided. We will eat, do some singing and the music staff will make a short presentation about the Youth Choir, its history and purpose, and what we would like to do for this coming year. We hope to see you then! If you have any questions please feel free to contact us in person or:

**Walter Wells**  
814-404-6620  
[waltermolly@gmail.com](mailto:waltermolly@gmail.com)

**Gwen Catchen**  
814-404-1754  
[gwencecilia47@gmail.com](mailto:gwencecilia47@gmail.com)

### REASONS TO SING IN THE YOUTH CHOIR



1. Children who get involved in church are more likely to stay involved.
2. Learning to read and sing music from the printed page gives children a sense of mastery.
3. Being part of a creative community is transformative.  
Out of this community comes beauty—a beauty that can only happen in the context of that community.  
All the parts work together to become greater than their sum. It's not just musical, it's biblical.
4. Extensive memorization of words and music stimulates a child's intellectual development.  
Studies have shown that kids who do music also do better in other areas of school.
5. Singing in public develops a child's self-esteem and confidence.
6. The choir gives value to children as worshipers.  
Children are as much the 'now' of the church as are adults



## PENTECOST JAZZ MASS

Sunday, May 31, 2020, 5 p.m.  
Church

Next Pentecost, May 31, 2020, at the 5:00 p.m. service, we will celebrate with an original work jazz mass by parishioner Steve Hopkins. Some of the parts have been performed before, others are being composed now. This will be the premier of the complete traditional five-movement mass. A band will accompany Steve as he plays the piano for this special service. Mark your calendar now!



## GROUPS, MINISTRIES, & COMMITTEES

*This is not a comprehensive listing; regularly scheduled meetings and events are included only if they submitted an item for publication. For complete and updated listings, please check your Sunday bulletin or weekly email.*

### DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Wednesday August 14, 7 p.m.  
Room 119

Daughters of the King will hold their regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 14, in Room 119. Please contact Kitty Mussett at [kam13@psu.edu](mailto:kam13@psu.edu) with questions or if you are interested in learning more about the Daughters of the King.

### KNITTING GROUP

Sundays, 11:15 a.m.  
Room 324 – Fall Dates announced

Come Join Us This Year in Knitting for Peace. You're invited to join us, your friends in Knitting Ministry! Who are we? We are parishioners and friends of St. Andrews who knit and crochet together to make beautiful and useful things for others. We meet monthly from September to May. Don't know how to knit but want to learn? No worries, we will teach you. Mark your calendar and drop in. All 2019-2020 meetings follow the main Sunday service and meet in the Library, Room 324:

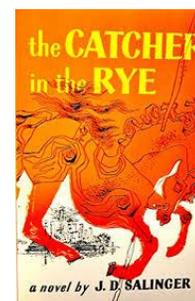
2019	2020
September 8	January 12
October 13	February 9
November 10	March 8
	April 12
	May 10

For more information contact Anne Hoag,  
[anne.hoag@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hoag@gmail.com)

### BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, August 27, 7:00 p.m.  
Room 324

Last month, ten members of the St. Andrew's Book Club gathered around a campfire at the home of Sharon Rovansek to make s'mores and discuss Bill Bryson's book, *A Walk in the Woods*. For August, we will return to Room 324 to discuss J. D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye* – one of the most notoriously banned books across school and public libraries. Hope to see you there!



## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Duncan Lovisky



1 Norah Greenert

3 Betty Bechtel

4 Paul Hochreiter

4 Bob Ayer

5 Richard Meyer

5 Aedan Ellis

5 Evin Ellis

6 Sally Marley

6 Tyler King

7 Kendall Mainzer

13 Mitch Mitchell

13 Steve Hopkins

13 Darla Houseman

13 Joan Bouchard

14 Zach Paulsen

15 Wendi Keeler

16 Joan Blasko

16 Bryson Christopher

17 Walter Wells

17 Sharon Rovanseck

17 Andrea deCarle

20 Liz King

26 Milly Hopkins

27 Thomas Valentine

27 Cian Hildebrandt Nelson

28 Robert Heinsohn

30 Melinda Pugliese

31 Tina Okafor



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** If you have an August birthday and don't see your name listed, we probably do not have that information in our records. Please contact the office – we may be missing other information, too.

### *Those for Whom We Pray*

Natalie, Cheryl, Christian, Dave, Karen, Kathryn, Sandy, Jack, Everly, Jackson, Tim, Kelley, Joan, Don, Jane, Bonnie, Teri, Susan, MaryBeth, Joyce, Lauren, Chuck, Joe, Mary, Kevin, Frank, Vicki, David, Emily, Sara, Robbie, Diane, Ty, Terry, Wayne, Cathy, Barb, Krista, Bobby, Fritz, Dick, Ty, Jordan, Roger, Michael, Pat, Chloe, Rick, Margaret, Stu, Linda, Andrew, Mildred, Sienna

### *Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders*

Christie, Sean, Nathan, Ted, Blake, Chuck, Jordan, Matt, Ben, Katy, Fritz, Jenna, and Jack

## SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801.

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