

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



October 2021

Give Thanks!

Fall is a time for giving thanks. The time of harvest and associated festivals, the American holiday of Thanksgiving, the waning months of the year that prompt us to take stock of our life and its many blessings, all put us in the frame of mind to give thanks. Thankfulness, of course, is a characteristically Christian practice. Our central act of worship is the Eucharist—The Great Thanksgiving. More than that, being thankful to God for the gifts we have received from God's hand is woven into the fabric of the Christian life. We teach our children to say grace before meals acknowledging and giving thanks for our food, and other basic necessities of life. Childhood bedtime prayers also emphasize thankfulness and blessing. Upon the positive outcome of any important or stressful event, we naturally exclaim, "Oh! Thank God!" It is perhaps the simplest and most sincere of prayers.

As sometimes happens, modern science is confirming ancient wisdom. There is a growing body of research that identifies thankfulness, or gratitude, as a powerful source of good things in our lives. The old saying, "count your blessings," is vindicated. From a recent article on Harvard's health website that reviews much of this research: "In positive psychology research, gratitude is strongly and consistently associated with greater happiness. Gratitude helps people feel more positive emotions, relish good experiences, improve their health, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships." (<https://www.health.harvard.edu/healthbeat/giving-thanks-can-make-you-happier>) That's strong medicine, and we don't need to argue with our HMO to get it!

Within a religious context thankfulness is nothing new, but it does require cultivation. Simply taking a moment out of each day to say a prayer about what we are thankful for, or writing it down in a journal, can be a powerful practice. The benefits of this go beyond our own mental health. It reinforces a theology in which God is the giver of every good gift and helps us remember our place in the universe. Any expression of thanks to God is an assertion of faith. The Apostle St. Paul wrote in the conclusion of his first letter to the Thessalonians, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (1 Thess. 5:16-18) His absolutist advice is not mere hyperbole. Paul is giving us an inoculation against many sins and temptations. Consider what an act of defiance it is to rejoice always, pray without ceasing, and give thanks in all circumstances. How countercultural! How tenaciously faithful! But it doesn't just happen. It takes commitment and work.

Giving Thanks is the theme of our stewardship program this year. With all that has gone on in the world over the past year and a half, it seems rather counterintuitive to invite us all to give thanks. We do so in an attempt to follow Paul's advice and to deepen our relationship with God through Christ. In a recent introduction to an entire edition of the journal *Anglican Theological Review* dedicated to the subject of Gratitude, noted Old Testament scholar and theologian Walter Brueggemann wrote, "Gratitude is the antidote to pride, that life is not our achievement but a gift. This is not our world! Gratitude is the antidote to despair because in every circumstance, we still live by gifts faithfully given." (ATR v. 103, Iss. 3, p. 269) Please join me in giving thanks to God for God's many blessings in our lives. Even as we acknowledge life isn't perfect, let us give thanks in all circumstances.

TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer



August 2021

	August	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2021 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 32,554	\$ 325,370	71%	\$ 460,288
Total Operating Income	\$ 34,475	\$ 342,419	70%	\$ 487,488
Total Operating Expense	\$ 37,302	\$ 331,221	65%	\$ 506,242
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (2,827)	\$ 11,198		

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

VESTRY UPDATE, Kevin Lowe, Clerk of the Vestry



September 2021

The vestry met on Tuesday, September 14, remotely, using Zoom. Financially the church ran a deficit in August, but we remain in a positive position for the year as a whole. The vestry, as always, is grateful for the continued financial stewardship of the parish by all members.

Vestry heard updates on further property-related projects. The window frames of the church need to be repainted and this will likely take place in the spring. There are some new water damage-related concerns throughout the Trost wing, which is particularly impacting the north wall of Canterbury Hall. Repairs to the wall have been made in order to try to stop further leaking and will continue to be monitored.

Vestry addressed a few administrative matters, including approving an update to the parish bylaws concerning Parishioners' Ministry which will be publicized to the parish. In addition, vestry voted to approve a policy mandating COVID-19 vaccinations for all parish staff.

Vestry meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month and are always open to all parishioners. Please contact me (kevinlowe33@gmail.com) for the Zoom link prior to the meeting if you would like to attend.



Approved vestry minutes are available on our website ("Clergy, Staff & Vestry" under the "About Us" tab).

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Sunday, October 3, 11 a.m. (following the 10 a.m. service)
Front Lawn

All creatures, great and small, are invited to attend our annual Blessing of the Animals on Sunday, October 3.

Your pet (leashed or caged as appropriate) is welcome to join you inside the church at our 10 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist.

This is a family and child friendly service including a Children's Sermon.

The Blessing will take place immediately following the service on the front lawn.

- Refreshments will be served.
- Photos of pets and stuffed animals are welcome
- You may bring your pet to receive a blessing if you do not attend the 10 a.m. service.



EVENSONG

Sunday, October 3, 5 p.m.
Church (in person)
and Live on Facebook at facebook.com/standrewsc/



Our first Evensong of the academic year will be held Sunday, October 3, at 5 p.m. in the church with a reception following in Room 325. We will also livestream Evensong on our Facebook Page. You can watch it as it happens or watch a recording after the service has concluded. We will not have our regular 5 p.m. Eucharist this evening.

Evensong services are held the first Sunday of the month in October, November, February, March, April, and May.

CHILDREN

Fall Community Outreach

Children and Youth Ministries would like to share an opportunity for fall outreach.

We are sharing two ways to help support families in the State College Area School District:

1. Some families are having **significant** food and transportation needs. Monetary donations may be made through the **SCASD Education Foundation using the Mental Health Matters Fund** - Community Support Donations & Volunteers here: <https://scasdfoundation.org/donate/>
2. Families in need are able to request items for their household, including health/toiletries, cleaning supplies and school supplies: A quick and easy way to donate is by using the **Target Registry** link: <https://www.target.com/gift-registry/gift/scasdvolunteers>

Children and Youth Programs **Thank you!**

Robin and Kathy

Please feel free to email Robin with your questions, suggestions or concerns.

children@standrewsc.org.



YOUTH

J2A (grades 9 and 10)

Our 9th and 10th grade youth group (J2A from the Journey to Adulthood curriculum) met for the first time in the building since 2019 in September with leaders Deborah Morton and Kelley Paulsen, and fell right back into rhythm! They had a brief liturgy of goodbye to their old room and then carried the group's things down the hall and the stairs to a new space for the next couple years ahead! Their next meeting is Sunday October 10 in Room 325 for dinner (after worshipping together at the 5 p.m. service), and then in Room 119.

YAC, Young Adults in the Church (grades 11 and 12)

In September the 11th and 12th graders began their new routine of meeting for worship at the 5 p.m. service, followed by dinner and time together Sunday evenings every month. It was really good to be together again! Along with Fr. Jeff Packard, they are working on creating social media messages and videos to spread the word that St. Andrew's is an open and affirming place for everyone. Their next meeting is Sunday October 10 in Room 325 (after worshipping together at the 5 p.m. service).



UPCOMING

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

Friday, October 8
11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Canterbury Hall



GIVE BLOOD
You can make a difference.



Schedule online at redcrossblood.org or

Call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)

The need for blood is critical. Please sign up today.

SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN

Saturday, November 6, 1 – 4 p.m.
Room 325



Safeguarding God's Children training will be offered on Saturday, November 6 from 1 – 4 p.m. in Room 325. Masks will be required, and we will be social distancing. Light snacks will be provided.

Those who are due for this training and are not eligible for online renewal will be notified. Anyone interested in this training is welcome to attend. Please contact Barb Downs (downsbarb@gmail.com) or Rich Marini (rpm12@psu.edu) if you have any questions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FRIDAY FILMS *for Fall*

This Fall, Friday Films will present a musical slate of award-winning movies for you and your family to enjoy. All films are free, and we will enjoy pre-packaged snacks during the screening. Masks are required to be worn inside the building, except for eating and drinking. A discussion will follow each film for those who wish to stay.

Amadeus (1984)

Friday, October 1, 7 p.m.

Rated PG

2 hours, 40 minutes

Discussion led by Steven Smith



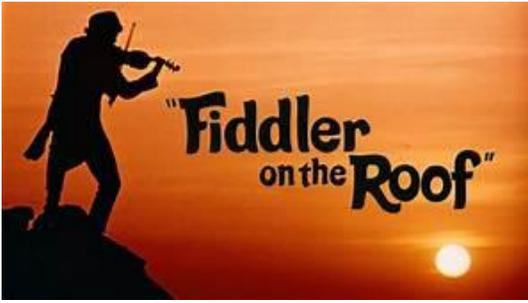
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart is a stunning young Viennese composer who unwittingly finds a fierce rival in the disciplined and determined Antonio Salieri. Resenting Mozart for both his hedonistic lifestyle and his undeniable talent, the highly religious Salieri is gradually consumed by his jealousy and becomes obsessed with Mozart's downfall, leading to a devious scheme that has dire consequences for both men.

Fiddler on the Roof (1965)

Friday, October 22, 7 p.m.

Rated G

3 hours, 1 minute



The story centers on [Tevye](#), a milkman in the village of Anatevka, who attempts to maintain his Jewish religious and cultural traditions as outside influences encroach upon his family's lives.

Hail, Caesar! (2016)

Friday, November 19, 7 p.m.

Rated PG-13

1 hour, 46 minutes



In the early 1950s, Eddie Mannix is busy at work trying to solve all the problems of the actors and filmmakers at Capitol Pictures. His latest assignments involve a disgruntled director, a singing cowboy, a beautiful swimmer and a handsome dancer. As if all this wasn't enough, Mannix faces his biggest challenge when Baird Whitlock gets kidnapped while in costume for the swords-and-sandals epic "Hail, Caesar!" If the studio doesn't pay \$100,000, it's the end of the line for the movie star.

A Christmas Carol (1951)

Friday, December 10, 7 p.m.

Rated TV-PG

1 hour, 26 minutes



In this adaptation of the Dickens classic starring Alastair Sim, Ebenezer Scrooge, a curmudgeonly, miserly businessman, has no time for sentimentality and largely views Christmas as a waste of time. However, this Christmas Eve he will be visited by three spirits who will show him the errors of his ways. It wouldn't be Christmas without it.

2021 STATE COLLEGE CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, October 17
2:00 p.m.



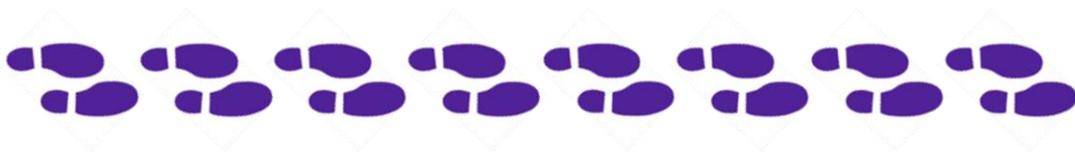
October in State College means falling leaves, pumpkins, cooler temps, football, pets coming to church, and ...The CROP Hunger Walk!

This year the Walk will be extra-special because St. Andrew’s is the host church. That’s right, the easy 5K walk will begin and end right here at St. Andrew’s! Registration begins on our front lawn at 1:30; the walk begins at 2 p.m.

The money we raise will be used to help the 950 million people in the world who don’t have enough to eat. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised in the State College CROP Hunger Walk goes directly to the State College Food Bank. The rest is used by Church World Service globally to provide food and water, seeds and tools, wells and water systems, technical training, micro-enterprise loans, disaster relief and more.

Parishioners of all ages can join our Purple People Feeders team of hunger fighters at <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/st-andrews-purple-people-feeders>. Family members, friends, and pets are encouraged to put on some purple and join us! We also welcome virtual walkers who feel more comfortable walking alone to register and walk any time they like. To make an online donation to support our walkers, visit the same website above. If you prefer to write a check, make it out to “CWS/CROP” and give it to one of the walkers, or put it in the offering plate.

Please contact Julie Kwasnica if you have questions or need more information.



**INTERFAITH HUMAN SERVICES
2nd ANNUAL COMMUNITY CARE AUCTION**

September 27 – October 3

Online at interfaithhumanservices.org/auction



THREE MORE DAYS TO BID!

You can help support the mission of Interfaith Human Services by participating in their 2nd Annual auction.

Items up for bid include: handmade items, quilts, gift certificates, antiques, collectibles, tools, artwork, and more! To view auction items and place your bid, click on the link above.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Community Café continues to serve take-out meals until we can safely resume indoor dining in Canterbury Hall. More volunteers are returning, and new ones are being added every week. In addition to the laundry crew, pick-up crews, and two teams of servers who never ceased volunteering during the height of the pandemic, we are now adding a third team of servers to the rotation. This is a milestone for the Café. Before the pandemic we had six teams of servers which dropped to perhaps ten individuals during the early days.

In addition, as the seasons change again, we must thank the farmers and organizations who have donated to the Café during this time of great uncertainty.

We would like to especially acknowledge Bruce, Diane, and Lucy Cramer of Cramer Farms who have continuously supported the Café. We are so very grateful.

We also thank the Think We, Not Me Community Food Growing Program which, to date, has donated the following fresh produce to the Café:

- 425 ears of corn
- 75 lbs. potatoes
- 75 lbs. onions
- 75 lbs. of native tomatoes
- 50 lbs. of bell peppers.



Check out this worthy non-profit at: [Think We, not Me – Community Food Growing Program \(thinkwenotme.org\)](http://thinkwenotme.org).

The Café operates every Thursday from 5 -7p.m. The meal is free, and all are welcome. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please call Ron Rovanseck at (714) 514-8875.

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.

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Saturday, October 30 12:30 p.m.
Room 119

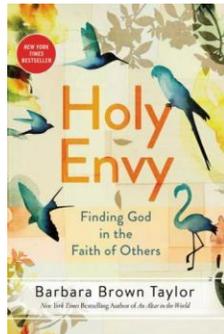
The St. Andrew's Prayer Quilt Ministry will meet on Saturday, October 30, at 12:30 in Room 119 in the Trost Wing.

If you have any questions, please call Michele at 814-574-9639.

COMPASSIONATE LIFE

Tuesday, October 5, 9:30 a.m.
Tudek Park

The Compassionate Life group is meeting outside at local parks while the weather holds and will be reading former Episcopal priest Barbara Brown Taylor's book *Holy Envy*. This book is a well-crafted exploration of Taylor's time teaching world religions at a liberal arts college in the South. It asks how you hold your faith in Christ as you are changed by rich encounters with people of other faiths.



Regular meetings are the 1st Tuesday of the month from 9:30-11:00am, with fellowship gatherings or field trips on the 3rd Tuesday mornings. Our next meeting will be Tuesday October 12th, location TBA. Email Kathy Hickner at youth@standrewsc.org if you'd like to be added to our email list! Newcomers are always welcome!



The group visited St. Andrew's own beautiful Cramer Farm in Howard for a tour (and opportunity to meet the pigs!) in late September. Thank you Bruce, Diane and Lucy Cramer!

KNITTING MINISTRY

Sunday, October 10, 11 a.m.
Room 324 – In Person
AND Via Zoom

In September, Knitting Ministry resumed meeting in the church library, Room 324 for those who are comfortable doing so. They also continue over Zoom for those who do not wish or are not able to attend in person. Join us! Settle down with your needles and yarn in front of your computer camera and log on! We knit cozy, useful items for Knitting4Peace (News and patterns at <https://www.knitting4peace.org/>).

The upcoming 2021 dates are November 14, and December 12.

If you would like to attend via Zoom, please email anne.hoag@gmail.com and she will send you a Zoom invitation link.



BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, October 26, 7 p.m.
Library (Room 324) at St. Andrew's

In the *spirit* of Halloween, the Book Club selected Ray Bradbury's 1962 classic tale, *Something Wicked This Way Comes*, as their October read.



A week before Halloween, sometime after midnight, a strange and sinister carnival rolls into Green Town, Illinois. A calliope's shrill siren song beckons to all with a seductive promise of

dreams and youth regained. Two boys will discover the secret of its smoke, mazes, and mirrors; two friends who will soon know all too well the heavy cost of wishes...and the stuff of nightmares.

Please join us on October 26th at 7:00pm in Room 324 to discuss. Newcomers and visitors are always welcome! (Come in costume – if you dare!)

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If you have an October birthday and do not 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.

1 Olivia Woskob
2 John Austin
3 Scott Strouse
3 Ron Rovansek
4 Maggie Jaenicke
5 Chrissy Krasnansky
6 Gabe Hickner
8 Michele Marini
9 DrueAnne Schreyer
9 Lauren Cozad
11 Malia Petrarca



11 Shirley Dunn
14 Zachariah Rigas
15 Suzanne Lamb
17 Paul Markowski
19 Sara Conkling
21 Maggie Crispell
21 Walter Zimmerman
22 Ava Jacobson
22 Matthew Thomas
22 Kathryn Yahner
23 Scott Kroczyński

23 Jean Beierlein
24 Josh King
26 Bill Wallace
27 Sarah McNutt
27 Mickey Hwozdek
28 Owen Jacobson
28 Sam Patzkowsky
30 Roger Balmer
31 Ellie Petrarca
31 Bobbie Jo Leitzell



Those For Whom We Pray

Teri, Dick, Molly, Sandy, Mavis, Don, Joan, Jane, Denise, Sara, Emily, Kevin, Diane, Vicki, David, Robbie, Frank, William, Zach, Stephanie, Tom, Maddie

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

Zach, Christie, Sean, Matt

Our Companion Parish

St. John's, Bellefonte

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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