

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

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

March 2022

Make a Friend at Church

Last month I wrote about community, the love and support we derive from one another and the work that it takes to create such community. This month I want to talk about how we welcome and incorporate new people into our community.

I was recently told by an active parishioner that for the first several weeks she attended St. Andrew's no one talked to her. You may have heard such stories. You may have experienced this yourself, here or elsewhere. It is a high hurdle to get over if you find the courage to attend a new church, but then no one talks to you. Does it mean that they are not nice people? Not necessarily. It just means that they failed to make you feel welcome. Now, I hope you have also had the opposite experience. I hope you have visited a church, or any other new community, and felt like you were truly welcome, like they really wanted you to be there. That feels good, doesn't it? What's the difference? It could be as simple as a smile, an inviting gesture, or simply that you were acknowledged. Our Newcomers Committee has been talking lately about being a Welcoming Parish, meaning that not only does our designated greeter make a point to greet newcomers but everyone sees it as their ministry.

Welcoming visitors and newcomers is the first step, and it is an important one. But just as importantly we must be open to having a true relationship with new people. In a recent article called [The Lonely Crowd](#), Mike Frost wrote, "Becoming and being a friend isn't easy. It takes intentionality and training. It might be your church's next major challenge." His point was that church members should be intentionally trying to make friends among other members. Without that friendship anchoring one to a particular parish, people slip away. In other words, welcoming someone on their first visit isn't enough. It takes work to get to know someone and have a relationship. You may feel like you have enough friends. You may not want to work so hard when you go to church. You may prefer to talk to your current friends. But think about how important your church friends are to you. Now think about the person in need of such friendship and seeking it here. We have a tremendous gift to give, and it is as simple as being a friend.

None of this is rocket science. You might even call it common sense. Still, we need to be reminded of such things from time to time. Intentionality is the key. There is no magic strategy for welcoming and incorporating new members. There is no perfect program to accomplish this. Rather, cultivating a culture of welcome and friendliness will yield a harvest of growth and resilience in our parish family. For those of you who, like me, are introverts this can be a challenge. Don't worry about that. Your more subtle and quiet ways may be just what someone who is herself an introvert needs to feel welcome. Again, the key is being intentional, pushing yourself to make that little effort.

The Newcomer Committee is instituting a ministry we're calling Shepherds. The Shepherds will be assigned to newcomers to help them integrate into the parish. They will facilitate introductions to other members of the same demographic or interest group. They will give information about parish programs and events and answer questions. They will function as a main point of contact for folks until they develop relationships of their own within our community. If you have the gifts to do this ministry, please contact me or Kitty Mussett, our chair of the Newcomer Committee. But don't think this lets the rest of you off the hook. It's still the work of the whole congregation. Next time you come to church make a point of saying hello to one person you have never spoken to before. Make it a new habit.

WELCOME TO ST. ANDREW'S

If you have been attending Sunday services recently, you may have noticed that the pews are beginning to fill up again to near pre-pandemic levels on some Sundays. And if you don't recognize everyone, it is not just because we could not meet in person for so long or because we are still wearing masks - new individuals, couples, and families have started attending St. Andrew's over the past few years. That trend has only accelerated in recent months. If you are one of these newcomers, whether you are a student whose time in State College will be limited, someone who is an occasional churchgoer, or someone who has decided to make St. Andrew's their new church home, WELCOME! We are happy you are here.

In addition to the challenges of welcoming newcomers and establishing friendships that Fr. Jeff talks about in his article, COVID has added additional obstacles. We have spent most of the last two years with little or no in-person interaction and our social skills might be rusty. Although things are getting back to normal, we are not yet gathering for coffee hour or activities other than worship where conversation and developing relationships happen more naturally. Some people are still limiting contact with others outside their family due to continuing concerns about the virus.

While we navigate this social landscape and dedicate ourselves to learning how to intentionally welcome and incorporate new members, we will introduce two or three newcomers each month in the *Net* with a picture and brief profile. The next time you see them, you may remember and greet them by name. You might want to ask them about an interest you learned you have in common or introduce them to someone you think they would like to meet. Or recommend an Indian restaurant.

And newcomers, if we contact you, we hope you will agree to share an introduction and help us get to know you. You don't have to wait, however; contact the office anytime and we can profile you in the next newsletter.

WELCOME, Jamie, Ellie, and Jeb Harper and Roxi Thoren (and Cheddar!)



The Harper-Thoren family moved to State College from Eugene, Oregon for the same reason many people come here, to teach at Penn State. Roxi is the head of the Landscape Architecture department and Jamie is an Associate Research Professor of Art History and Director of Museum Studies in the Department of Art History. He is a specialist in European art of the 17th century.

Moving across the country from Oregon to Central PA may seem like a big change, but Jamie is a native Pennsylvanian. While living in Oregon, summers included a trip east to a family lake house in Pennsylvania where Jamie keeps and sails his Comet 16 ½ foot sloop. Pennsylvania was not completely unknown to Jamie and Roxi's children, Ellie who is in 10th grade at State College Area High School, and Jeb, who is in 8th grade at Park Forest Middle School, but it has been a bit of an adjustment.

The family are all cradle Episcopalians; they attended the Church of the Resurrection in Eugene and looked for and new Episcopal church home when they moved to State College. They attend the 10 o'clock service on Sunday and Ellie and Jeb are participating in the Youth programs.

Both kids are avid readers. Jeb enjoys rock climbing and hiking, and Ellie is an avid swimmer. Roxi, as you may imagine, enjoys working in the garden.

The whole family also seems to have a passion for travel.

With his interest in 17th century Italian art, Rome is a favorite for Jamie. Roxi lived in Iceland in 2007 while on a Fulbright Scholarship and has a special connection to that country. The question "where would you like to go next?" elicited an immediate response: Jamie and Roxi both mentioned Portugal, I think it was Ellie who chimed in from the background with Scotland, and Jerusalem and India also made the list.

And finally, to answer the question you really wanted to ask, the fifth member in the family photo is Cheddar, a beautiful, energetic English Springer Spaniel puppy. Cheddar's list for future travels includes anywhere, anytime, and hopefully the Blessing of the Animals this fall.

WELCOME, Stephanie Bunt!



Stephanie Bunt also came to State College in connection with Penn State; she is pursuing a PhD in Architectural Engineering after earning degrees in architecture and civil engineering and teaching at Ball State University and Texas Tech University. She intends to make her career in academia.

Originally from Dallas, Stephanie has bounced around for school and work from Texas to Colorado, Michigan, and Indiana. She enjoys rock climbing, hiking, running and biking, but also draws and enjoys a good book. Her most recent reads were *Dune* and a non-fiction book about the first summit team of Mt. Denali in Alaska. She could not pick a favorite movie, but her favorite tv show is *Frasier*.

Stephanie was raised as a Methodist by a Methodist mom and Episcopalian dad. She attends the 8 o'clock service on Sunday and the breakfast afterwards.

TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer



January 2022

	January	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2022 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 109,848	\$ 109,848	24%	\$ 453,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 112,994	\$ 112,994	23%	\$ 481,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 41,408	\$ 41,408	8%	\$ 506,519
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 71,586	\$ 71,586		

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

VESTRY UPDATE, Kevin Lowe, Clerk of the Vestry



February 2022

The vestry met on Tuesday, February 8, remotely, using Zoom. The vestry welcomed new members Julie Breuninger, Carolyn Donaldson, Sharon Rovansek, and Fran Stevenson, elected at the annual meeting, as well as Sandy Schwartz, who was appointed to complete the remainder of Paul Humphreys's term.

Much of the meeting was devoted to orientation and organizational matters, including the assignment of committee liaison positions. In addition, the officers of the vestry were appointed and elected: Michele Marini was appointed Senior Warden; Tom Hall was elected Junior Warden; Julie Kwasnica was re-elected Treasurer; Mary Andrew was re-elected Financial Secretary; and Kevin Lowe was re-elected Clerk.

In other business, Wendi Keeler was appointed as Chief Steward of Parishioners' Ministry. The bylaw change concerning the timing of the appointment of new Parishioners' Ministry stewards, which was proposed and publicized in the fall, was officially adopted. In addition, vestry voted unanimously to endorse the participation of the Community Cafe in the Centre Gives fundraiser, as well as to renew the lease of Trinity House to the students who have been renting it this year. The vestry will also be holding a retreat on February 26 to begin its work and planning for the year.

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).

WORSHIP

EVENSONG

Sunday, March 6, 5 p.m.
Church

Reception, 6 p.m., Room 325

On Sunday, March 6, the Adult Choir will present a service of choral evensong. Music will include the *Evening Canticles in D* by Michael Praetorius, *Preces and Responses* by Richard Shephard, and the anthems *Hide Me Under the Shadow of Thy Wings* by John West, and *O Be Joyful* by James Weldon. Gwen Catchen will play works by Johann Pachelbel and Anita Graves.



As part of our continuing safeguards during the pandemic, masks will be required and social distancing will be practiced. A reception will be held in Room 325 after the service.

Evensong, like all forms of liturgical worship, has elements of drama and ritual that nourish the spiritual life of all of us. It is based entirely on elements of Holy scripture and it is scripted according to a long history, originating in Judaic and early Christian evening worship. Evensong is traditionally mostly sung by a choir, with the full congregation participating throughout in thoughtful prayer, allowing the music to touch us and to draw us closer to the presence of God.

The next evensong will be April 3 at 5 p.m.

ACOLYTE TRAINING: Youth and adults are invited!

Have you considered serving as an acolyte at St, Andrews?



ALL church members, ages 5th grade and up, are invited to serve as acolytes.

The service of our acolytes is an important part of every service.

Father Jeff and Deacon Joe will offer training sessions for those interested in acolyting after the 10 am service. Acolytes serve at least once a month.

For more information, please contact Robin at children@standrewsc.org

ALTAR GUILD

Calling all introverts! *

If you are looking for a way to support our church that doesn't require money, a lot of time and effort, evangelizing, greeting strangers, or even talking, have we got a group for you! We don't ask you to do any of those things.

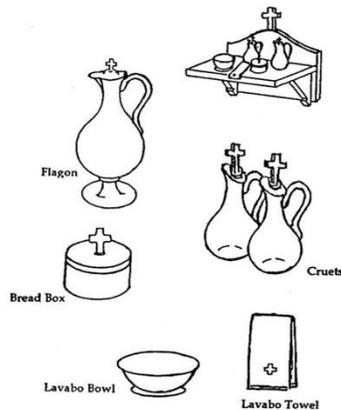
The Altar Guild is always looking for more members! If you have a yen to serve God and his Church, but not a lot of time to devote, Altar Guild could be a perfect way to add a ministry to your life. We have four small teams, so each team works only once a month for an hour on a Saturday and the services on Sunday plus an occasional wedding or funeral. We dust, swat stray cobwebs, vacuum, straighten the things in the pews, clean and polish silver, vest the chalice, set up and clean up the altar, wash communion glasses, and launder linens.

Learn to handle beautiful sacred items and where they fit in our worship.

Anyone interested in being added to a team can call or email Teri Smith, 814-238-5964, ssmith2124@aol.com.

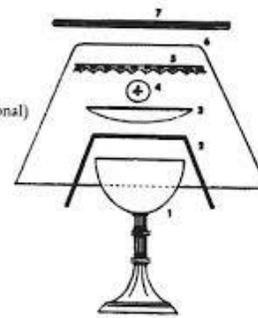
"As I handle holy things, grant that my whole life may be illuminated and blessed by You."

* Extroverts also welcome!



A Vested Chalice

- 1 The Chalice
- 2 Purificator
- 3 The Paten
- 4 The Priest's Wafer (optional)
- 5 Linen Pall
- 6 Silk Veil
- 7 Burse



LENT AT ST. ANDREW'S

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays in Lent

March 11, 18, 25, April 1, 8

In person, in the Nave

On Facebook (recorded)

On YouTube (recorded)

<https://youtu.be/6plHoQ95Q6U>

(ctrl + click on link or photo)

5:15 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Anytime



TAIZÉ PRAYER

Wednesdays March 16 - April 6

5:15 in the church

Taizé is a candle-lit, meditative service of music, silence, brief readings, and prayer lasting approximately 40 minutes. It is coordinated by the Daughters of the King and the music is led by Steve and Lisa Hopkins. Taizé is usually offered at St. Andrew's during Advent and Lent.



Altoona Convocation

LENTEN STUDY: Witness at the Cross

Wednesdays, March 9 – April 13

7 p.m. on Zoom

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81095037129>

Led by clergy in our convocation including Fr. Jeff, we will examine the events of Holy Friday in the context of *Witness at the Cross* by Amy-Jill Levine. A small number of books are available for purchase in the church office. It is suggested that you read the Chapter One before the first meeting.

You can also access video content by the author.

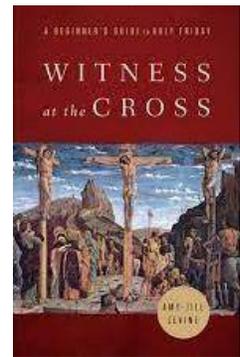
To log in:

Ctrl + Click on the **AMPLIFY** link below. (Or enter it in your browser. This will take you to St. Mark's account.)

<https://my.amplifymedia.com/stmarksepiscopalchurchlewist>

Enter their access code, **BWTVPY**

You will be prompted to enter your name, email, and create your own password. After that, you will have access to the video content.



Daughters of the King

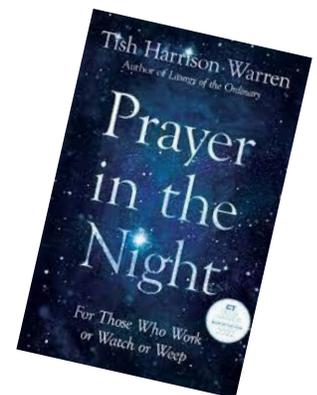
BROWN BAG BOOK STUDY

Wednesdays during Lent

Noon, Room 119

The Daughters of the King will host a lunchtime book study on Wednesdays during Lent beginning March 9. The book, *Prayer In The Night* by Tish Warren, is a deep dive into a prayer from Compline, "Keep watch, Dear Lord." The book is available in print or audio online.

Everyone is invited! Feel free to bring lunch with you.



LENT MADNESS 2022

March 3 – April 13 www.lentmadness.org



The Madness is underway! In our St. Andrew's bracket we have 17 fierce competitors including two husband/wife entrants, one group (congratulations, Compassionate Life – you have already won your division!) one Catholic friend of St. Andrew's who claims to have an edge over the rest of us when it comes to saints, one dog (?) and one long-distance entry. Many of the competitors are new to Lent Madness and all were incredibly generous: entry fees are still coming in, but

with many people choosing to contribute more than the suggested \$5, we have already collected over \$200 for Parishioners' Ministry. It is too late to enter the bracket, but plenty of time left for anyone to make a donation. Just mention Lent Madness and Parishioners' Ministry.

Follow the tournament and vote for your favorite saints at the Lent Madness website. See updated tournament standings on the poster in the upper hallway. Watch for fun facts about the saints, and strange, mostly accurate statistics and updates on our bracket standings until, on April 13 we find out which saint wins the Golden Halo. But more importantly, which competitor will win the St. Andrew's Tarnished Halo

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

NEWS FROM OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS:

We are looking for help in the nursery.

We are in need of volunteers to help in our nursery program once a month. Our Nursery is for infants through two-year-olds. We currently have two toddlers each Sunday.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Robin Bastress at

(814) 404-3812
children@standrewsc.org.

Gratefully, Robin Bastress

YOUTH PROGRAMS

J2A

Our J2A group will be headed to downtown Washington DC in mid-May for their Urban Adventure, a weekend of navigating the city culminating in worship at the National Cathedral. And thanks to all of your wonderful support for our fundraisers, this group will soon begin planning their 2023 pilgrimage! J2A meets twice a month in the evening on 2nd and 4th Sundays.



YAC (Young Adults in the Church)

The mini golf course set up in the upstairs hall for our February gathering was probably a historic first, and although it provoked more frustration than joy, we were glad to see each other and pray together! YAC meets once a month in the evening on 2nd Sundays.

OUTREACH

THE COMMUNITY CAFÉ

The Community Café will once again participate in Centre Gives, a 36-hour online giving event set to begin on May 10 at 9 a.m. and conclude on May 11 at 9 p.m. This event supports the great work of local nonprofits serving Centre County – like the Community Café!

Right now, because we have signed up early, we are in the running to win one of two early bird prizes of \$250.00 each, so cross your fingers!

We are also starting a fun new Café feature for the newsletter called 'Get to Know the Volunteer' just like the 73 question challenge in Vogue Magazine. But don't worry, we won't do all 73. First up, is our Executive Director, Ron Rovanseck.



Get to Know: Ron Rovansek, Executive Director

1. What is your favorite time of day?

A: Sunset because I'm not awake for sunrise and the colors are pretty.

2. What's your biggest compliment?

A: When someone says the soup is delicious, but they don't know I've made it.

3. Are you confrontational?

A: No. I'm a peaceful man (said with a smirk).

4. What's the cutest thing in the world?

A: Babies and puppies. What are you talking about?

5. What would be your superhero power?

A: Healing. Without super healing, all the other powers are just stupid.

6. Favorite clothing?

A: Socks from the cashier area at Wegman's changed my life.

7. Biggest challenge?

A: Having a bunch of weird ingredients and actually making them into something delicious.

8. Last question, Ron. What's the most expensive thing you own?

A: My Bushnell Legend M-series 10 x 42 binoculars.



There you go! We will feature another volunteer and questions from Vogue again next month.

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

KNITTING MINISTRY

Sunday, March 13, 11:15 a.m.
Via Zoom ONLY

Knitting Ministry will meet on Sunday, March 13, 11:15 - 12:15 via Zoom. 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/>).



If you would like to come, please email anne.hoag@gmail.com and she will send you a Zoom invitation link. Mark your calendars for the second Sunday of each month through June 2022.

For more information contact Anne Hoag, anne.hoag@gmail.com

BOOK CLUB

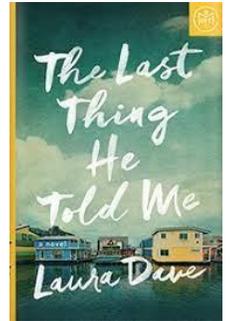
Tuesday, March 22
7 p.m., Room 324 (Library)

For the month of March, the St. Andrew's Book Group will be reading a best-selling mystery full of plot twists and family drama, *The Last Thing He Told Me*, by Laura Dave.

After one year of marriage, Hannah's husband Owen disappears leaving behind a note with only two words: *Protect her*. The note refers to Owen's sixteen-year-old daughter, Bailey, who wants nothing to do with her new stepmother. As Owen remains missing, the FBI arrests his boss, and federal agents arrive at her home unannounced,

Hannah realizes her husband is not who he said he was. Together, Hannah and Bailey set out to discover Owen's true identity and why he disappeared.

For the answers to these and more questions, please join us for discussion on March 28. Visitors and newcomers are always welcome.

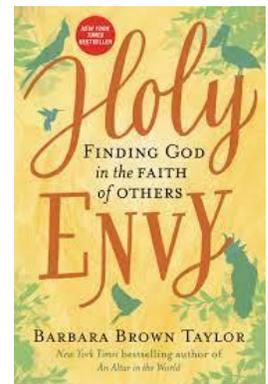


COMPASSIONATE LIFE

March 1 and March 15
9:30 – 11 a.m.

Compassionate Life is back to meeting in-person and is finishing up Barbara Brown Taylor's fascinating book *Holy Envy*, which we heartily recommend! We have been delighted to have some new women join us in the last few months.

We meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 9:30am to 11:00. Everyone is welcome! Email Kathy Hickner at youth@standrewsc.org with questions or to be added to our mailing list.



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

1 Amy Allison	10 Theresa Johnson-Pritchett	21 Bob Jones
2 Michele Hamilton	11 Jane Cawthern	21 Ben Newton
3 David Rovanssek	12 Anne Thomas	22 Eileen Weglarz
3 Michele Almeida	13 Joe DeLauter	22 Vicky Ponish
4 Kathy Dittmann	14 Patrick Osborne	23 Alexandra Couch
5 Janet Packard	18 Beti Bell	24 Darlene Nordoff
5 Eddie Jones	18 Karl Zimmerer	26 Marlee Kwasnica
6 Flora Eggert	19 Nancy O'Connor	27 Lew Parry
7 Emily Paulsen	19 Carolee Grillo	28 Betha Christopher
7 Haley Couch	20 Jerry Dittmann	28 Mena Jones
8 Liz Jenkins	21 Geoff Cozine	31 Jeb Harper
9 John Harris	21 Sandy DeLauter	
9 Pat Krall		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If you have a March 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

Sandy, Dick, Erica, Teri, Molly, Mavis, Kevin, Diane, Frank, Robbie, Vicki, Sara, David, Emily, Donna, Joan, Don, Jane, Zach, Frances, Ty, Jordan, Chuck, Stephen, Dylan, William, John, Greg, Carol, Rich, Andreii, Daniel, Marie, Lee

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

Zach, Christie, Sean, Matt, Eric

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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