

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

DECEMBER 2019

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

St. Andrew's Needs More Money

By Steven Smith, Senior Warden

Dear fellow parishioners,

As we turn toward Advent, then Christmas, we also have to anticipate the looming New Year 2020 and the Church's budget for the coming year. I have to tell you that unless we turn a corner also in terms of money, our beloved St Andrew's will be faced with some unpleasant, not to say cruel, choices.

The Stewardship Committee has produced, over the last several weeks, an excellent series of talks and a beautiful mailing, and many of you have already responded with pledges both of money and time/talent for 2020. The evident trend is upward, and we on the Vestry are deeply grateful. At the same time, the Finance Committee has naturally been tasked with preparing the new budget. It's a simple fact that the numbers are more troubling than we anticipated.

St Andrew's has experienced a decline in numbers both of members and of pledges in the last few years. The number of pledging units for the last three years are 184 in 2017, 165 in 2018, and 159 this year. Pledge average amounts have gone up, but the total number of dollars has declined. Since 2015, we have been using some endowment money each year to balance the budget. With the use of endowment, we had a year-end surplus in 2015-16-17. In 2018, that dwindled to a deficit of about \$8000. **This year the deficit is, to the end of October, \$46,000; that is, not quite 10 percent of a budget just over \$500,000.** (It's reasonable to hope that some Christmas generosity will ameliorate that figure for 2019.) That number is disturbing, and Finance Committee has felt forced to propose an austerity budget for 2020, with cuts and “tiers” that would allow cuts to be restored if pledge income rises substantially. Their proposed total is based on pledge income of \$400,000, which is simply an extension of what has been received in recent years.

We are most unhappy to be considering cuts in our St Andrew's programs, personnel, or building maintenance. Our Church stands for some terrific things: help for the poor; pastoral care; maintaining a beautiful, welcoming, useful, but big and aging building; liturgy and a music program that we love; education of children and youth. We are actually a rather lean operation, presently at slightly more than a half-million dollars a year to support our buildings (\$74,000 in 2019), office expense (\$18,000), ministries (\$15,000), Diocesan fair share contribution (about \$75,000), and staff salaries and benefits (about \$329,000). That last figure is for all ten employees; there are only two full-time people, Fr. Packard and the sexton. The other eight people on the staff, including music, secretary, treasurer, Christian Education, nursery and so on, are part-time but in our humble opinion, necessary for the function of our parish as we know and love it. The total for staff must go up, as the Diocese mandates a small cost-of-living adjustment. On the other hand, do we go on spending our precious endowment? All conventional wisdom suggests that is a bad idea, at least as a continuing plan, year after year.

There's only one happy way out of this cul-de-sac. That, my dear friends, is for us to dig deep and come up with a significant increase in our contributions. If we are complacent, we'll be faced with deep, possibly debilitating cuts. But ah, on the other hand! If we all come up with a five, or possibly ten percent pledge boost, we could avoid the trap and fund St Andrew's to the full extent we expect.

Let's plan to talk this over. There will be a plain presentation in church at all services December 8 (Advent 2) and a communal roundtable during the adult education hour at 9:00 a.m. December 15. I hope we can reach a plan to move us forward....as I complete my own year as your senior warden.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



PARISH ADVENT PARTY

Sunday, December 1, 11:15 a.m., Canterbury Hall

Advent 1

Come start your Advent with a dose of good cheer as we craft and snack together after the 10:00 service on the first Sunday of Advent. We'll make Christmas cards for inmates, decorate the Angel Tree, and color some Christmas stars for church decoration. Also pick up an advent wreath and candles (for a small donation), as well as a liturgy to use with them at home!



ST. NICHOLAS VISITS and TOYS FOR TOTS COLLECTION

Sunday, December 9, 10:00 a.m. service

Advent 2

Church this Sunday will feature a children's sermon and guest appearance from a very special visitor. Everyone is encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots. Children will bring the toys to the altar during the Offertory.



HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE,

Saturday, December 14 – donations due in
Canterbury Hall

Sunday, December 15 – Cookies for sale

Advent 3

Calling all parish bakers! It's time again to crack open your cookbooks and get inspired to add something brilliant to our parish cookie sale. Please complete and return the form at the end of this newsletter (or in your Sunday bulletin) to help us know how many cookies to expect. Bring your contributions to the kitchen in Canterbury Hall on Saturday the 14th. Mixed boxes of cookies will be sold Sunday December 15th after all services (or as long as they last!) for \$8 to benefit our youth program.



DECK THE HALLS!

It will soon be looking a lot like Christmas at St. Andrew's. If you would like to contribute toward our Christmas decorations in thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones, please complete a form (at the end of this newsletter) and return it with **your donation by December 15**. Remember to indicate "Christmas Greens" in the memo line of your check. The names of those honored will be printed in all the Christmas bulletins.



If you own a nativity set or creche that you would like to share with St. Andrew's for the holiday, we will once again be using them to decorate in the nave. Please bring your labelled items to the church office or contact Sue Stephenson for additional information.

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 15, 5:00 p.m., Reception following

The annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be presented on Sunday, December 16th, at 5 p.m. It is patterned after the Christmas Eve service held in King's College Chapel. The Festival was introduced in 1918 to bring a more imaginative approach to worship. It was first broadcast in 1928 and is now broadcast to millions of people around the world. The service has become of staple of Episcopal churches in the United States and has even spread to other denominations. Readings are followed by carols and anthems from the choirs and carols sung by the congregation. Both the Youth and Adult choirs will sing for this service. Music includes works by Mark Burrowes, J. S. Bach, Jean-Philippe Rameau, Walter Wells, Elizabeth Poston, John Rutter, Franz Biebl, Nicholas White and Mark Schweizer.



A FESTIVAL
OF NINE LESSONS
AND CAROLS

Following our own St. Andrew's tradition, Parish Life will host a festive reception for all in Canterbury Hall. This is usually our biggest, most beloved party of the year, so be sure you are a part of it! You can contribute by donating food or money for the reception, or by signing up to set up or clean up. Click [HERE](https://bit.ly/LandC2019) (bit.ly/LandC2019) or contact Darlene Nordoff if you can help.



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Sunday, December 22, after 10:00 service
Advent 4

A long-standing tradition at St. Andrew's is nearly here. Every year, members of the parish go out into the community to sing for those who are no longer able to get out to participate in the activities of the season. Caroling will be from Noon to 2 p.m. at several local assisted living facilities. We will meet in Room 325 around 11:30 a.m. for a light meal and then head out. Song sheets will be provided and we will carpool to each site. These carol sings have provided much joy for so many over the decades. All are welcome! Please come and help us take the Light and Love of Christ into our community.



TAIZÉ DURING ADVENT

Wednesdays in Advent - December 4, 11 and 18

5:45 p.m. in the Church

Take a break from the busyness of the holiday and join us in 45 minutes of quiet reflection. Taizé is a quiet, meditative service of music, silence, brief readings and prayer, which calms body, mind and spirit.



Please note there is no Evening Prayer on Wednesdays during Advent.

TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer

October 2019



	October	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2019 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 27,368	\$ 359,062	78%	\$ 462,261
Total Operating Income	\$ 31,329	\$ 390,876	74%	\$ 530,384
Total Operating Expense	\$ 37,209	\$ 437,646	83%	\$ 530,384
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (5,880)	\$ (46,769)		

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

VESTRY UPDATE, Kevin Lowe, Clerk of the Vestry

November 2019



The November vestry meeting was held on Tuesday, November 12. The parish's net operating income for October was again exceeded by monthly expenses, and our year-to-date financial status is significantly in the red. We are currently operating at a deficit for the year of almost \$47,000. Financial support through regular pledging and contributions is essential to the sustainability of St. Andrew's. If you have not yet returned your pledge commitment for 2020, we encourage you to do so soon!

The vestry heard reports from various St. Andrew's committees and ministries. Out of the Cold begins at St. Andrew's on November 18 and will require a large number of volunteers. Property Committee submitted a list of priority maintenance projects for 2020. Most of the meeting was spent discussing the draft 2020 budget submitted by Finance Committee, about which more will be shared soon. Subsequent to the meeting, the vestry met with the Rev. Canon Dan Morrow, from the diocesan office, for the first stage of a Mutual Ministry Review. The vestry will be working with Canon Morrow over the next few months to examine the prayerfulness of our ministry. Vestry is also looking forward to its strategic planning retreat in January to continue these discussions.

A reminder that the date for the annual parish meeting is Sunday, January 26, 2020, at 6:00pm. Nominations for candidates for seats on the vestry or as convention delegates are now open. We invite all members to consider

whether they feel called to serve in these important ways. Anyone interested in running for a seat should speak with Kathryn Yahner, junior warden and nomination committee chair.

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.

Be a Blessing Stewardship 2020

To date we have received 108 pledges for a total of \$299,557.

If you have not yet responded, please consider what you are able to pledge for the coming year and bring your pledge card (time and talent, too) to church on Sunday to put in the offering plate or return it in the envelope provided. Extra cards are available in the Narthex. You may also make your pledge and payments online.

The bounty we enjoy is rightly understood as the bounty and blessings of God. However you decide to make your pledge and in whatever amount, we thank you for your commitment to the future of St. Andrew's.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH



YOUTH

Pie Sale



Thank you so much for letting our youth bake your Thanksgiving pie or pumpkin bread a couple weeks ago! The kitchen was hopping and we had a fun time stirring huge bowls of ultimately delicious pumpkin goop. Some youth were seasoned bakers, and others picked up a few new skills, but they all worked hard! Profits go toward our fund for youth trips.

ADULT ED IN DECEMBER

Transforming Questions

Sunday, 9 a.m., Canterbury Hall

The Adult Forum wraps up the Transforming Questions workshop series with two final sessions. We invite you to come share in this process of discovery. These sessions are appropriate for questioning teenagers and adults alike!

December 1 – Why Do I Need Church?

More and more Americans are rejecting the institution of church—even those who continue to identify as Christian. There are lots of reasons people say they don't need church. So why do we have church, after all? What does the Bible say about the community of faith? We will examine images and metaphors of the church community found in scripture, and share our own experiences and visions of what church could and should be.

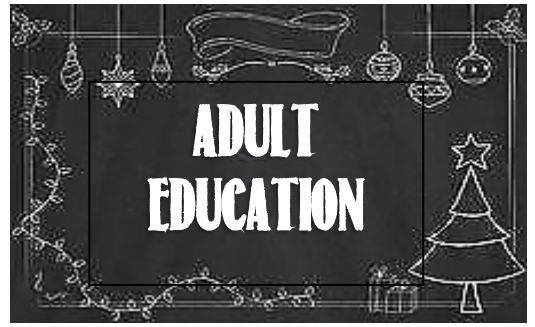
December 8 – What Makes Us Episcopalian?

Through this series we have examined difficult theological questions that are shared (though answered differently!) by all Christians. But what makes our corner of Christianity unique? Where does the Episcopal Church come from? And what do we have to believe in order to be an Episcopalian? We will examine the distinctive characteristics of the Episcopal Church, and discuss what we can do moving forward to grow our faith and engage with theology in our daily lives.

COMPASSIONATE LIFE

Decorative Gourd Sale to benefit Parishioners' Ministry

Keep an eye out later in December for festive painted gourds in Canterbury Hall during fellowship hour after the 10:00 service. You will be able to take one home for a donation of your choosing to St. Andrew's Parishioners' Ministry! We are taking a break from our book discussion for some crafting for a good cause! Stay tuned for more information.





OUTREACH



**Interfaith
Human
Services**

IHS WISHING WELL CAMPAIGN

Monday December 2 and
Monday December 9, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.
Meyer Dairy

With the support of over 30 faith communities in Centre County, IHS offers professional case workers to counsel those in need, help with winter heating costs, manage money for those unable to receive their own support checks, and provide furniture service for those transitioning to new housing.

Each Advent IHS rings the bell for their wishing well campaign. As we have done for the last several years, St. Andrew's will staff the wishing well outside Meyer Dairy. We are scheduled for Monday, December 2, and Monday, December 9 from 9:00 a.m. until closing at 10:00 p.m. We like to have 2 people for each one-hour shift and there are still openings available.

Sign up for **December 2** at
<http://bit.ly/Dec2WishingWell>

Sign up for **December 9** at
<http://bit.ly/Dec9WishingWell>

It's a fun activity for families or friend to share, and you are doing good for those in need.



ANGEL TREE

Sunday December 1 – Sunday December 22
Canterbury Hall

On Sunday December 1st, we will hang Angel Tree tags on the tree in Canterbury Hall. The tags are, once again, made from wish-lists of the youth at Stormbreak and the staff at the Burrowes Street Youth Haven. Hearty thanks to members of the Children & Youth Committee for their work on the Angel Tree this year: Andrea deCarle, Julie Kwasnica, Kelley Paulsen, Kevin Lowe, and Marisa Ferger!



Please take an angel gift tag and return the angel, along with your gift by **Sunday, December 22nd**. Secure the angel gift tag onto the wrapped gifts (or unwrapped for general supplies). There will be a box every Sunday during Advent in which to place your donation, or you can bring it to the church office during the week.

Stormbreak Girls Group Home provides up to nine dependent and delinquent girls ages 12-19 with a safe, structured, and nurturing environment to learn and grow. Through real-life experiences in the home and in the community girls gain skills that help them work towards permanency with family, foster care, or other permanent living. A focus on individualized treatment is the basis of the program's success. Positive change for the individual and family is our goal.

Burrowes Street Youth Haven is a voluntary shelter housing homeless, runaways or at-risk youth (ages 12-17) for a maximum of 15 days. Services include 24-hour hotline assistance for youth and their families; assistance with immediate crisis needs such as food, shelter and clothing; therapeutic shelter care for youth; drop-in care, including counseling, snacks and activities; and individual, family and group counseling.

OUT OF THE COLD CENTRE COUNTY

For the last two weeks, St. Andrew's has hosted over 20 guests each night as part of Out of the Cold Centre County. Thanks to all our volunteers plus everyone who held our guests and the OOTC problem in their prayers. Special thanks to Scott Strouse and Michele Hamilton for organizing and training the volunteers at St. Andrew's.



Greg Lovisky, Steven Smith, Scott Strouse, and Michele Hamilton preparing to serve a meal to the Out of the Cold guests. There were 20 that evening.



More volunteers - a woman from Out of the Cold, Fr. Jeff, Michele Hamilton, and Jason McCloskey prepare for a long night.

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday, December 8, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 University Baptist and Brethren Church
 411 S. Burrowes Street, State College

Instead of purchasing “things” for Christmas, the Alternative Christmas Fair offers you the option of contributing to charities in honor of friends and family. 100% of the donations go to the participating charities. Volunteers from numerous organizations will be on site and a soup and sandwich lunch will be available to eat in or take out. For more information and a list of participating organizations, go to ubbcwelcome.org/acf/



Make a difference!

FRIDAY FILMS

Friday, December 20 – Canterbury Hall
 6:30 p.m.: Gathering and food
 7:00 p.m. Film



Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

Rated PG

1 hr, 16 min

Snacks at 6:30 p.m.

Film starts at 7:00 p.m.

Jack Skellington, the pumpkin king of Halloween Town, is bored with doing the same thing every year for Halloween. One day he stumbles into Christmas Town, and is so taken with the idea of Christmas that he tries to get the resident bats, ghouls, and goblins of Halloween Town to help him put on Christmas instead of Halloween -- but alas, they can't get it quite right.

TOOT-IN-COMMON 2019 HOLIDAY CONCERT

Monday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.
 St. Andrew's, church

Founded by St. Andrew's member, Judy Moore, , [Toot-in-Common](#), will perform a Seasonal Concert at St. Andrew's on Monday, December 16. The hour-long performance will feature popular and contemporary holiday favorites arranged for flute choir.

A free will offering will be accepted to support Toot-in-Common. A reception will follow the performance.



GROUPS, MINISTRIES, & COMMITTEES

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



DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18
7:00 p.m., Room 119

Daughters of the King will be holding additional meetings in December as we begin with our Discernment Class. If you would like information or have any questions, please contact Kitty Mussett.

KNITTING MINISTRY

Sunday, January 12, 2020
11:15 a.m., Room 325

The Knitting Ministry will not meet in December. Enjoy the holiday and see you in January.

BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, December 17, 7:00 p.m.
Starbuck's Café in Barnes & Noble

With the busyness of the holiday season, the book club opted to not read a book for the month of December. However, the book club will meet on Tuesday December 17th at 7:00pm at the Starbucks Cafe in Barnes and Noble to browse the shelves and pick a novel for the month of January. Please join us!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If you have a December 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.

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1 Candace Davison
3 Jeffrey Kern
4 Medora Ebersole
4 Edward Brown
4 Lois Murphy
5 Jackie Reich
5 Marion Vaught
6 Julia Kasdorf
7 Bill Donovan

7 Denny Houseman
8 Frank Vergamini
8 Jerrilyn-Muth Kern
9 Wendell Williams
12 Kitty Mussett
14 Katie Mussett
14 Sandy Schwartz
17 Doug Dailey
17 Rebekah Dawson

20 Bruce Cramer
22 Shane Markowski
22 Mimi Reed
23 Pete Arnett
25 Jesus
26 Colton Dash
28 James Wunz
29 Amelia Kasdorf

THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY

Stu, Teri, John, Maggie, Dave, Kevin, Robbie, Vicki, Frank, David, Sara, Emily, Kathryn, Kim, Sandy, Everly, Celeste, Jack, Linda, Thom, Keith, Joan, Don, Jane, Christian, Lee, Rich, Karen, David, Ty, Terry, Patty, Cathy, Wayne, Judy, Bab, Jeff, Owen, Joshua, Tara, Quin,, Dick, Dave, Roger, Emily, Joyce, Charlene, Fritz, Tim, Stephen, Jule, Jon, Cheryl, Doug, Claire, Carla, Vic, Walter, Tanner

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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ADVENT and CHRISTMAS 2019



Wednesdays in Advent

December 4, 11 and 18

5:45 p.m. **Taizé** in the Church (no Evening Prayer on these dates)

First Sunday in Advent, December 1

After 10:00 service: **Advent Party** - Crafts and snacks to start the season!

Second Sunday in Advent, December 8

During 10:00 Service:

- **St. Nicholas Day** – special guest St. Nicholas.
- **Toys for Tots** - Bring a new, unwrapped toy to donate to Toys for Tots. Children will bring toys up to the altar during the offertory.
- **Children's sermon**

Third Sunday in Advent, December 15

Sunday Morning: **Youth Cookie Sale**

5:00 p.m. Service of **Lessons & Carols** and reception. Nursery available for childcare.

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 22

After 10:00 service: Lunch and Nursing Home **Caroling**

Christmas Eve Services, December 24

6:00 p.m.:

- **Holy Eucharist – Rite II**
- Family Service with Nativity
- Youth Choir
- Nursery open for family use (unstaffed)

9:30 p.m.: **Carols and Anthems**

10:00 p.m.: **Holy Eucharist – Rite I**

Christmas Day

10:00 a.m.: **Spoken Eucharist – Rite I**



Cookie Bakers Needed!

The Journey Youth Groups will be selling boxes of cookies Sunday, December 16.
 Please consider baking and donating cookies or cookie bars to our fundraiser.
 Please bring your donations to the church office or Canterbury Hall before Saturday, Dec 14,
 10:00 am, or request a pick up. **Label your cookies for Youth Fundraiser.**
 Questions: Betha Christopher bethasmusik@gmail.com
 - Thank you! -

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Kind(s) of Cookies: _____

_____ dozen of cookies **Circle One:** Drop off? **Friday** OR **Saturday**

Arrange pick up? **Yes** OR **No**

Christmas Greens

It is almost time to deck the halls; if you would like to contribute toward our Christmas decorations in thanksgiving or in memory of loved ones, please complete and return this form with your donation by **December 15**. Remember to indicate "Christmas Greens" in the memo line of your check.

Given by _____

In memory of _____

As a thank offering for _____



→ Amount _____