

The monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Connecting us in community and in Christ

December 2021

Advent Without Ceasing

The Rev. Jeffrey A. Packard

Christmas is coming. Like a train slowly picking up speed, Advent begins. As the month progresses, the Christmas express builds in its intensity and its apparent speed. Eventually, we are chugging uncontrollably toward that favorite annual holiday, our anxieties and excitement in top gear. With all the work of preparation that needs to take place between now and Christmas Day, we are all beginning to feel the stress. And in the midst of all that, the Church tells us to be still, to watch, and to wait for the Lord.

No one likes waiting. It feels like the biggest waste of time. We are all hyper-aware of time and how we spend it, especially when there is a lot to be done. Doing nothing can be like punishment, like a time-out that a child gets for misbehaving. Besides, how can we possibly find the time to wait when we are so busy?

Maybe we can't. Maybe we have so many things to do in a given day that 24 hours just aren't enough. Maybe the idea of setting aside our calendars and our lists is just so ridiculous that it will never happen, and we will just end up feeling guilty because we didn't do what the preacher said we should be doing during Advent even though it was impossible. So, here's our situation: we feel guilty if we take time to just sit and be, to pray and contemplate, to set aside the busy-ness of the season, and we feel guilty if we do not.

Is there a way to remedy this seemingly impossible predicament?

I think of St. Paul's admonition for us to "pray without ceasing." How is that possible? It is only possible if we are able to incorporate prayer into our daily routine, not only making time for intentional prayer, but approaching everything with an attitude of prayerfulness. Only if we can somehow infuse all our activity with prayer can we pray without ceasing. Perhaps it is the same with the stillness and expectant waiting to which we are called during this season.

What if you contemplated the themes of Advent while waiting in line at the grocery store or when buying Christmas gifts? What if you occupied your mind while you drove from place to place with the meaning of Christ's coming into the world and into our lives? It may start as something that gets crammed into the cracks of our daily routine, just filler between the *this* and *that* which occupies our minds. But if we can cultivate the habit, we may find that it becomes more than filler. Like praying without ceasing, keeping Advent in the midst of our busy lives may become something that happens constantly and unconsciously. Being still and waiting for the Lord could be the foundation of all we do while we are doing so much. Anyway... it sounds like a good idea to me.

Weaving the joyful expectancy of Advent into the fabric of our lives may actually take more work than simply taking a little time to do so intentionally. Either way requires effort. It doesn't just happen. Putting in the work has its benefits. On Christmas Day what do you want to experience, the nagging guilt of having failed to create the perfect Christmas experience, or the peace that comes from quietly receiving the perfect Gift that God offers us at Christmas and every other day? That choice is something to contemplate this Advent.

TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer





	October	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2021 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 31,195	\$ 390,292	85%	\$ 460,288
Total Operating Income	\$ 34,826	\$ 412,888	85%	\$ 487,488
Total Operating Expense	\$ 41,574	\$ 409,037	81%	\$ 506,242
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (6,748)	\$ 3,850		

^{*}Includes pledges, plate offerings, and special holiday offerings.

VESTRY UPDATE, Kevin Lowe, Clerk of the Vestry



November 2021

The vestry met on Tuesday, November 9, remotely, using Zoom. Financially the church continued to run a deficit in the month of October but remains in a positive position over the year to date. The vestry continues to invite all parishioners to prayerfully discern their financial stewardship for the coming year and return their 2022 pledge if they have not done so already.

Much of the vestry's work at the November meeting was financial in nature, including examining an initial draft 2022 budget provided by Finance Committee. Vestry also affirmed Finance Committee recommendations for how to pay for the window frame repainting project as well as various Parish Life Center maintenance repairs that have been necessary lately. In other business, vestry voted to authorize the ongoing use of Canterbury Hall as a local polling place, after a successful experience at the beginning of November. Vestry was also glad to issue the proclamation of Walter Wells Day which Fr. Jeff read at the November 14 service and is deeply grateful for Walter's many years of service to the parish.

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).

Kevin M. Lowe Clerk of the Vestry

VESTRY ELECTIONS

Vestry Nominations

Once again it is time to nominate candidates for the St. Andrews Vestry. We have initiated the process and will be contacting parish members to seek eight nominees for the 2021 election. Please consider serving in this capacity with thought and prayer.

You may also self-nominate or nominate someone else (with their knowledge and approval.) To be eligible to serve on vestry **or** as a convention delegate, you must be baptized, at least 16 years old, and a confirmed or received member of St. Andrew's who supports the parish through regular financial contributions. All nominees will be vetted by the Nominating Committee, chaired by Senior Warden, Scott Strouse and consisting of Andrea deCarle, Jason McCloskey, Connie Puckett, Scott Strouse, Beth Jones, and Allison Shea. You may submit nominations to Scott at (scottallen1750@gmail.com) or in writing to the church office.

Voting

The annual election for new vestry members and convention delegates will be held on the day of the annual meeting, Sunday, January 30, 2021, via an online balloting system. The traditional balloting process we have used in the past is labor- and paper-intensive, and an online ballot will allow us to save considerable time and resources.

By early January, we will be making available the current list of eligible voters. According to our bylaws, all persons in our membership register who are sixteen years of age

SAVE THE DATE Parish Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 30, 20201 More information to follow

and older, who have received Holy Communion at least three times in the last year, and who have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are eligible to vote in the election. Please check the list for accuracy. If you believe you are an eligible voter but are not on the list, please contact the office.

To use the online ballot, we will need a **valid email address** for each voter. (For instance, if you share an email address with a spouse and would like to cast individual votes, you will need to provide a second email address.) If we do not already have an email for you, please provide an email address when you check your eligibility. On the day of the election, you will receive an email from the election system with a secure link to the ballot and a unique PIN number that can only be used once. Clicking the link and inputting your PIN will take you to the ballot where you will be able to easily vote for the candidates you prefer. This ballot will work on any device, including your phone.

We hope that you will embrace this change to our process! If you have any questions about the balloting or election process, please contact me at kevinlowe33@gmail.com.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Second Sunday in Advent - December 5

8 a.m. * Holy Eucharist: Rite I

10 a.m. * Holy Eucharist: Rite II (Visit from St. Nicholas, Toys for Tots, Children's Sermon)

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Third Sunday in Advent – December 12

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

5 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

Childcare available in nursery No 5 p.m. eucharist this week

Hot cider by firelight on the front lawn following the service

Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 19

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II
5 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Tuesday, December 21

7 p.m. Blue Christmas, ecumenical service in the church

Christmas Eve, December 24

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Family Service with Nativity

Nursery open for family use (unattended)

7:30 p.m. A Prelude of Music for the Season

8 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I

Christmas Day, December 25 – No services – Merry Christmas

EDUCATION

SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN

Sunday, December 5, following the 10 a.m. service

A Safeguarding God's Children Class will be offered on Sunday, Dec. 5th in Room #325 directly after our church service. Those required to attend have been notified. The class is also open to anyone in our parish who is unable to do an online renewal or to anyone seeking more information on abuse prevention in our church and community. Light refreshments will be provided. Please notify either Rich or Barb if you plan to attend.

Barb Downs (downsbarb@hotmail.com) and

Rich Marini (rpm12@psu.edu)

^{*} The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan will preach and celebrate at the 8 & 10 a.m. services. There will be a light reception following the 10 a.m. service

OUTREACH

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Thanksgiving Recap







The Community Café had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day. It took many hands, and we would like to thank the cooks, volunteers, the folks who donated turkeys and pies, and those who spread huge word about the meal. We also would like to thank the grocery stores who are regular donors to the Café, but especially Webster's who sent over some vegan apple/pear crisps, Starbucks who sent over coffee and little pastries for the volunteers, Trader Joe's for their extra-large donation on Wednesday night, and the anonymous cashier at Giant, who when she heard that the turkey being purchased with points was going to the Café, told us to go back and go get another one on her.

We have also received many kind words of thanks so far, and we know we will receive more.

Christmas Cookies Needed

Now, as we move into the Christmas season, we would like to make sure that every patron of the Cafe receives a bag of Christmas cookies to take home. We will serve them with the take-out meals on December 23, so if you would like to donate cookies, please let us know, label them with what kind they are and make note of allergens, especially peanuts, and deliver them that week.

Thank you so much for your continued support of the Community Café.

OUT OF THE COLD 2021

Monday, November 29 – Monday morning, December 20

Early Monday, November 29th Out of the Cold delivered their cots and other supplies to St. Andrew's and that evening, our guests spent their first night in the building. They will be with us until Monday morning, December 20. By next winter, Out of the Cold



plans to be in their own building, but this year they still depend on churches like St. Andrew's to help provide overnight shelter, a warm dinner, and breakfast for people currently living in State College with no permanent

shelter. Out of the Cold now employs staff members to supervise the overnight periods, but we still need volunteers to provide dinner, breakfast, and company for our guests. Please use this link https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0F45A9AD2BA5FA7-outofthe32 to see what is still needed and to sign up to volunteer. If you have any questions, please contact Saint Andrew's OOTC Coordinators, Scott Strouse, scottallen1750@gmail.com or Michele Hamilton, hamiltonmichele45@gmail.com

ANGEL TREE

Donations due by December 24





This winter the Youth Services Bureau - which runs both the Burrowes Street Youth Haven and Stormbreak Girls Group Home - has exciting news. They've received a generous federal grant for Burrowes Street! But they need to match a percentage of the funds to receive the award. That's where St. Andrew's can be angels this Christmas! The Youth Services Bureau staff have Christmas gifts for their youth already covered but could really use our help making sure they get this grant. Let's support them and the important work they do for youth in our area!

So please take an angel from the tree in the Narthex and return your check for Burrowes Street to the church *by Christmas Eve!* You can return your check in the angel box near the tree in the narthex during worship services, or you can put it in the offering plate. *Checks can be made out to St. Andrew's with "Burrowes Street" in the memo line.*

If you prefer to give online

Link to online giving:

https://onrealm.org/StAndrewsC/give/AngelTree

Texting Giving:

Text "STANDREWSC Angel\$25.00" to 73256 to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply.

Giving this organization some of our treasure sounds exactly like something St. Nicholas would do. But fortunately, we don't have to sneak up onto roofs or drop anything through chimneys!

Here is information from YSB's website describing the Burrowes Street program:

The Burrowes Street Youth Haven serves youth 12-17 who are homeless, runaway, or at risk of running away or becoming homeless due to difficulties within their homes. Youth are welcome to access the shelter whenever they need a safe place to stay, day or night. Caring, professional counselors are at the shelter 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to provide assistance for both residential and drop-in care. Young adults can drop by for a snack, a meal, a shower, or to talk to staff. When family issues prevent youth from living at home they can stay at the shelter. These services are offered free of charge.

IHS Wishing Well at Meyer Dairy

Monday, December 6 Wednesday, December 8

It's beginning to feel a bit like Christmas, and that means St. Andrew's parishioners are invited to help Interfaith Human Services by ringing the bells for the Wishing Well at Meyer Dairy. The campaign is especially important this year because the pandemic has put other planned fundraisers on hold. Families in need of emergency financial assistance are depending on us now.

St. Andrew's is responsible for Monday, December 6 and Wednesday, December 8. There are still time slots available.



Here's the website for December 6: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E44ADA629A6F58-ring2

And the one for December 8: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0E44ADA629A6F58-ring3

If you have questions, contact Marion Schwartz at kmarsch09@gmail.com.

University Baptist & Brethren Church Alternative Christmas Fair

December 5 – 19
Online at https://ubbcwelcome.org/acf/

2021 marks the Alternative Christmas Fair's 39th anniversary! COVID-19 and based on last year's positive experience, we will

LOVE
JUSTICE
SIMPLICITY
COMPASSION

Alternative Christmas Fair
University Baptist & Brethren Church

Due to once

again offer our ACF as a virtual event. Holiday shoppers can donate online or pay by check between Dec. 5-19 to benefit our 29 participating local, national, and international charities. For information on the charities and how to give online or by check, please use the link above.

Last year, the charities shared in \$43,575 given by generous people in our community. We're pleased to report that since 1982 a total of \$787,404 has been raised for charity by UBBC's Alternative Christmas Fair.

Here are the organizations to which you may donate:

Center for Alternatives in Community Justice

Centre County PAWS

Centre County Youth Service Bureau

Centre Helps

Centre LGBTQA Support Network

CentrePeace

Centre Region Down Syndrome Society

Centre Safe

Centre Volunteers in Medicine

Centre Wildlife Care

Church World Service

Clearwater Conservancy of Central PA

Dyslexia Reading Center of Central PA

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Centre Co.

Heifer International

Hope International Services

Housing Transitions

Interfaith Human Services

Jana Marie Foundation

Midstate Literacy Council

Out of the Cold

PA Interfaith Power and Light

PA Prison Soc. Centre County Chapter

Park Forest Preschool

Save the Children

State College Food Bank

State College Meals on Wheels

Ten Thousand Villages

Tides Program

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Advent Taizé Services

Wednesdays, December 1, 8, and 15 5:45 p.m. in the Church



The first three Wednesday evenings during Advent we will have a slightly shortened Taizé service in person, in the church. Join us for this beautiful and contemplative service to prepare for the Christmas season. The services this year will include the usual reading, intercessions, and times of silence. We will, however, limit the number of songs that are sung as a COVID mitigation effort.

St. Nicholas Visits and Toys For Tots Collection

Sunday, December 5, 10 a.m. service

Church on December 5 will feature a children's sermon by our bishop, the Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan, and a visit from St. Nicholas. 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. As you start your holiday shopping this month, add an extra toy to your list.



Episcopal Visitation, December 5

Sunday, December 5, at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services

On the Second Sunday in Advent, our bishop, the Rt. Reverend Audrey C. Scanlan will make her regular visit to St. Andrew's. She will celebrate and preach at the two morning services and there will be a light reception in Canterbury Hall following the 10 a.m. service. St. Nicholas won't be the only bishop at St. Andrew's on December 5!

FRIDAY FILMS: A Christmas Carol

Friday, December 10 7 p.m., Room 325

First up will be the 1901 short film, *Scrooge*. This approximately 6-minute silent movie, directed by William Booth, is the earliest known film adaptation of Charles Dickens's 1843 novella *A Christmas Carol*. The feature attraction will be the classic 1951 version of *A Christmas Carol* starring Alastair Sim as the miserly



Ebenezer Scrooge who journeys into his past, present, and future, with the help of some persistent Christmas spirits.

Christmas refreshments including punch, cookies, and candy canes will add to the holiday cheer. We ask that you wear a mask when not eating or drinking. Hand sanitizer will also be available for your use.

The doors will open at 6:30pm, with the film beginning at 7:00pm. A little social gathering where we can discuss the film will be held afterwards for those who wish to stay.

HOLIDAY COOKIE SALE

Friday, December 10 – donations due in Canterbury Hall Sunday, December 12 – Cookies for sale



Journey Youth will be selling boxes of assorted Christmas cookies Sunday, December 12, at all services - while they last! If baking is part of your Christmas tradition and you could donate a dozen (or more!) home-made cookies to add to the cookie boxes, please see the donation form at the end of this newsletter for more information or fill out a form online at https://bit.ly/2021CookieDonations. Questions? Contact Kathy Hickner or Betha Christopher.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 12 5 p.m., Church (*no 5 p.m. eucharist this Sunday*) Childcare available in the nursery



Due to continuing pandemic concerns, this year's service will include six lessons rather than nine and fewer hymns and anthems. Readers will be from St. Andrew's and invited guests from the community. The choir will present carols by John Ireland (ADAM LAY YBOUNDEN:), Harold Darke (IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER) and John Rutter (ALL BELLS IN PARADISE). We will continue to wear masks and social distance. After the service, bundle up in your coat, gloves, and scarf and enjoy a cup

of hot cider and fellowship by firelight on the front lawn. This special service is a holiday tradition, even with a few minor changes. Make it part of yours.

TOOT-IN-COMMON CONCERT



Monday, December 13 7:30 p.m., Church

Toot-in-Common, the Central PA Flute Choir directed by St. Andrew's Judy Moore, is back!

They will present a Holiday Concert, Monday, December 13 at 7:30 p.m. Their literature includes sacred Christmas carols, contemporary selections, original works created just for them, and Classical arrangements for Flute Choir. A goodwill offering will be collected. *Join the artists for a reception following the concert*.

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A Service of Comfort and Joy



Tuesday, December 21 7 p.m., Church

This ecumenical worship opportunity for anyone who is not feeling the joy of the season. If you are grieving, or just experiencing the winter blahs, come and celebrate Christmas at this alternative service. On the darkest night of the year, we will remember that Christ came as the Light of the World. Members of the State College community are invited and encouraged to attend.

ADDITIONAL ADVENT RESOURCES

#AdventWord



An offering from the Virginia Theological Seminary in partnership with Forward Movement. Each day during Advent is assigned a word. You can sign up to receive emails with meditations and prayers offered by VTS inspired by the daily word. You are also invited to offer your own response in the form of a picture, poem, prayer, meditation, etc. You could post on our Facebook page, on your own social media (using the hashtag #AdventWord), and you can view responses from others around the world. There is even a podcast.

For more information, ideas, or to sign up for daily emails, go to: https://adventword.org/en/home/

Diocesan Advent Calendar

If you don't have an Advent calendar already, don't worry - our diocese has made one for you. (Sorry, no chocolate.)

Throughout the month, they will share daily inspiration in the forms of prayers, poetry, song, and more. The content will focus on weekly themes of hope, love, joy, and peace. The calendar invites you into deeper reflection in this season of preparation and mystery. You can find it at

https://calendar.myadvent.net/?id=e7c67b1725cb5a51f469ae446ee01106&door=0



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, December 12, 11:15 a.m. Room 324 – In Person AND Via Zoom

Come Join Us 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. Andrew's enjoying fellowship while knitting and crocheting with our hearts and hands. We send our hats, scarves, Peace Pals, baby blankets and booties to Knitting4Peace (see:

https://www.knitting4peace.org/) who distribute them through mission health clinics both in the U.S. and in the developing world. Don't know how to knit but want to learn? No worries, we will teach you.

Mark your calendar for **December 12** and drop in after the 10 a.m. service (usually around 11:15), either by Zoom or in the Library (Room 324). For the Zoom link, to join our email list, or for more information contact Anne Hoag, anne.hoag@gmail.com.



BOOK CLUB

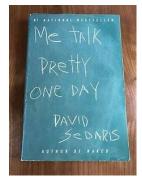
Tuesday, January 25, 7 p.m. Room 324

Me Talk Pretty One Day,

David Sedaris

The Book Club enjoyed our discussion of Amanda Montell's *Cultish* last week and our night out at the Barnes and Noble Café put us in the holiday spirit. We will be taking a break for the month of December; our next meeting will be Tuesday, January 25, at our regular time and location, 7 p.m. in the library at St. Andrew's (Room 324.)

We will start the new year off on a lighter note with a collection of humorous essays by David Sedaris, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*. The collection includes stories about the author's family and childhood, his move to France and attempts to learn



the language, his experience of speech therapy as an elementary student, and his first gig teaching language and writing,

Newcomers and visitors are always welcome – and there's still time to add the book to your Christmas list!

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If you have a December 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	Candace Davison	7 Holly Benscoter	21 Lillianna Ellis
3	Jeffrey Kern	8 Frank Vergamini	22 Shane Markowski
4	Andy Stephenson	8 Jerrilyn Muth-Kern	22 Mimi Reed
4	Medora Ebersole	12 Kitty Mussett	23 Pete Arnett
4	Edward Brown	14 Katie Mussett	23 Jennifer Irvin
4	Lois Murphy	14 Sandy Schwartz	25 Jesus
5	Marion Vaught	17 Kellie Orlich	26 Colton Dash
7	Bill Donovan	17 Rebekah Dawson-Rigas	28 James Wunz
7	Denny Houseman	20 Bruce Cramer	

Those For Whom We Pray

Sandy, Dick, Molly, Teri, Mavis, Joan, Don, Jane, Beth, Mary, Susan, John, Jean, Siri, Glenn, Katie, Jennifer, Sarah, Lynne, Sara, David, Martin, Gwen

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

Zach, Christie, Sean, Matt

Our Companion Parish

St. John's, Bellefonte

Please call or email the office with your prayer requests. 237-7659

office@StAndrewSC.org

or post them on our Prayer Wall https://bit.ly/StAPrayerWall

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

208 W. FOSTER AVENUE STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801

OFFICE: 814-237-7659 FAX: 814-867-7959

EMAIL: office@standrewsc.org WEB PAGE: www.standrewsc.org

It's Christmas Cookie Time!



Email:

If Christmas baking is part of your Christmas preparation tradition, you are needed! Please consider donating a dozen or two (or more!) to add to the Christmas cookie boxes the Journey youth are packaging for sale on December 12. You can bring your home-made cookies on Friday, December 10, 3:45-6 PM, or Saturday, December 11 by 9-10 AM to the Canterbury Hall kitchen; or call the church office if you'd like someone to pick them up. Please no chocolate chip or peanut butter blossom cookies,

as the youth will be baking those. Fill out the information below and either place your slip into the offering plate, or give it to Kathy Hickner or Betha Christopher. Thank you!

Name: ______ Phone: _____

	Kind(s) of Coo	kies:						_	
	#	_ dozen of cookies	Circle One:	Drop off?	Friday	OR	Satu	rday	
				Arrange pick	up?	Yes	OR	No	
 Christ	mas Greei	าร							
hanksgi	iving or in me	eck the halls; if yo emory of loved on member to indica	es, please co	mplete and i	return t	his fo	rm v	vith your	donation
Given by	у								-
In memo	ory of								
As a tha	nk offering fo	or							
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				Amount					