

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

February 2022

The Heart of Our Faith

I have a friend in Virginia, a Methodist pastor, who is the chaplain for the local fire department. He has been a volunteer firefighter since his teens. His firefighting days are behind him now, but he loves staying involved as chaplain. He was telling me about a funeral he was preparing for the other day for a fire chief who'd recently died from COVID. The logistics for the funeral were overwhelming. He attended a meeting with representatives from several fire jurisdictions as far away as 60 miles. They were providing equipment and personnel to cover the various firehouses in the local area so all the local firefighters could attend the funeral. The funeral activities themselves were to span two full days. If you've ever seen a procession for the funeral of a firefighter, you know how impressive it is; engines and other trucks lined up and decorated, people often lining the route. My friend commented, "I have never been a part of a community of people like the firefighting community who are so committed, even devoted to one another." He said that he'd been a member of the church his entire life but had never seen a church that was so able to pull together and support one another the way firefighters and their families do.

We then talked for several minutes about how to build such a powerful community in our churches.

One obvious difference between members of the firefighting community and members of a church is that church members do not engage in dangerous activities, such as rushing into burning buildings, routinely placing our lives in one another's hands. It seems a powerful bond develops between people who have shared such intense, and yes, life-threatening experiences. At one time in the church's history, professing a faith in Jesus Christ was a dangerous, even life-threatening action. In parts of the world, it still is. I can imagine being part of a small, persecuted faith community and the kind of bond that would develop with the other Christians. I can imagine the mutual support we would give each other in difficult times, the shared sense of loss if something happened to one of our members, the strength I would derive from my fellow Christians, and the primacy of my sense of identity associated with membership in the church. I can imagine all that, but I do not know how to create it.

Membership at St. Andrew's may not require us to put our lives on the line, but being a Christian is no less demanding in the twenty-first century than it was in the second century. In our baptisms we commit ourselves to follow Christ who told us that in order to save our lives we must be willing to lose them. How deeply have you reflected on that? Short of actually losing our lives, we can find an intense bond with others as we gather around a common purpose and work towards common goals. Being committed to a common purpose along with others creates both a sense of identity for us as members of the group and a sense of purpose and meaning for us as individuals. At its best, that's what being a member of a Christian community is all about.

In practice, we need to have a place for people at all levels of commitment in our parish, constantly inviting folks to move deeper into their relationship with Christ and with his church. But we also need to be clear in our own minds about what it is we are inviting people to move deeper into. What is the fire at the heart of our faith that draws us inward?

Next month I will write about how we build community, specifically with new members.



December 2021

	December	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2021 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 37,192	\$ 450,655	98%	\$ 460,288
Total Operating Income	\$ 40,663	\$ 478,382	98%	\$ 487,488
Total Operating Expense	\$ 50,139	\$ 498,670	99%	\$ 506,242
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (9,476)	\$ (20,287)		\$ (18,754)

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



December 2021

The vestry met on Tuesday, January 11, remotely, using Zoom. This was the final meeting for outgoing vestry members Andrea deCarle, Jason McCloskey, Connie Puckett, and Scott Strouse. In addition, Paul Humphreys stepped down from vestry. Many thanks to Andrea, Jason, Connie, Scott, and Paul for their service to the parish! Sandy Schwartz was appointed to a one-year term on the vestry to complete Paul's term. Financially the church finished 2021 with an approximately \$20,000 deficit as expected; however, the final deficit was only around \$1500 more than we had budgeted for. 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.

The vestry discussed a variety of financial matters and voted to withdraw some funds from the Altar Guild endowment to replenish the guild's savings account line. Much of the meeting was devoted to a discussion of the pandemic's effect on parish life and lessons that we have learned (or are in the process of learning). Questions were raised about how best to serve the community in this time, both within the parish and outside in the larger community. We continue to hold space for grief and loss in how things have changed at St. Andrew's, even as we look toward the future.

At the Annual Parish Meeting on January 30, Julie Brueninger, Carolyn Donaldson, Sharon Rovanseck, and Fran Stevenson were elected to the vestry and will begin their service at the February meeting.

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).

2022 Annual Meeting

The following parishioners were elected by acclamation to serve on vestry at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 30. Their terms will run from January 2022 to December 2025. Congratulations!

**JULIE
BREUNINGER**



**CAROLYN
DONALDSON**



**SHARON
ROVANSEK**



**FRAN
STEVENSON**



The following slate of Convention delegates was elected : Anthony Grillo, Carolee Grillo, Linda Mace, Jason McCloskey, Allison Shea and alternates Dennis Shea and Connie Puckett.

If you missed the Annual Meeting, you can download or view a copy [HERE](#). If you would like a printed copy, you can pick one up in the church office during the week or in the narthex on Sunday.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Annual Parish Meeting 30 January 2022

- I. Call to Order and Opening Prayer (Fr. Jeff Packard): 11:21am
- II. Appointment of Kevin Lowe as Secretary of Annual Meeting (Fr. Jeff Packard)
- III. Approval of Jan. 31, 2021 Annual Meeting Minutes

Motion: Steven Smith; 2nd Cathy Dauler – Approve the minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting as presented. Motion carried with no abstention or dissension.

- IV. Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members
 - Andrea deCarle, Jason McCloskey, Connie Puckett, Scott Strouse (senior warden)
- V. Election of New Vestry Members and Convention Delegates (single vote of the clerk)
 - Vestry: Julie Brueninger, Carolyn Donaldson, Sharon Rovanseck, Fran Stevenson
 - Convention delegates: Anthony Grillo, Carolee Grillo, Linda Mace, Jason McCloskey, Connie Puckett, Allison Shea, Dennis Shea (alternate), Kathryn Yahner (alternate).
 - Election recognized by audible affirmation of attendees
- VI. Recognition of Continuing Vestry Members
 - Michele Marini, Kitty Mussett, JudithAnn Rule, Barb Downs, Tom Hall, Paul Hochreiter, Amy Pritchett, Sandy Schwartz (appointed to 1 year replacement term)

VII. Announcement of Parishioners Ministry Stewards

- Continuing stewards: Anthony Grillo, Beth Jones, Wendi Keeler, Sarah Klinetob Lowe, Pam Ferguson (1 year replacement term for Marion Schwartz), Steven Smith
- Recognition of Don Hopkins, longtime steward and treasurer of PM, and announcement of Sandy Schwartz as the new treasurer

VIII. Budget Report 2022 (Linda Mace)

- Financial reports for the end of 2021: finished with a loss for year of a little over 20K; budget expected a 19K shortfall
- Current pledge status: \$404,445; 125 pledges; current status is above where we were last year; we still anticipate getting to \$425,000 in pledges
- Our diocesan Fair Share dropped significantly this year (around \$25K) because of the new diocesan formula; this helped our budget tremendously
- Boosted utility cost budget slightly for 2022, other things have stayed relatively constant
- 2022 budget is again not balanced; we are expecting another shortfall this year
- Parishioners' Ministry is receiving contributions from community members outside of the parish as well and has been well funded since removing it from the line item budget
- Altar Guild endowment (Chelius) has traditionally been mixed with other operating endowment funds; the AG endowment has now been moved out of operating into a separate savings line, so that AG accounting can be more directly tracked to ensure that Chelius endowment funds are used specifically for AG purposes

IX. Rector's Address

- 2021 has been a continuing struggle with the pandemic; COVID continues to affect every aspect of parish life
 - Slow reintroduction of in-person services in the spring and summer; wine was reintroduced in the fall
- Pandemic conditions continue to make planning very difficult; we are trying to remain as agile as possible moving forward
- Thanks to Scott Strouse (senior warden) and Michele Marini (junior warden) who have been extraordinarily active at St. Andrew's helping keep things running
- First poetry contest this year, in conjunction with Arts Fest, was extremely successful with submissions from all over
 - There was a reading and panel discussion, even though Arts Fest did not happen
 - There will be a second contest this year, theme TBA
 - Fr Jeff has been asked to serve on the board of the Arts Festival
- 2022: Flexibility is going to be key this year
 - We will continue to try to rebuild community in the parish
 - Strategic planning process was derailed by the pandemic in 2020 but will need to be reintroduced eventually; the challenge is to do what we can to keep moving forward
 - When we do move into congregational strategic planning, we will need to pay attention to the pandemic's effects
 - What has changed? What will go back? What will be completely different now?

Blessing and adjournment, 12:07pm

Minutes submitted by Kevin M. Lowe, clerk

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Welcoming new and familiar faces with CDC protocols in place

Every Sunday our children enjoy lessons and activities planned by adult volunteers from our parish. Each week our children have a chance to see friends, learn about our church calendar and teachings from the Bible.

Here is what is offered for all ages every Sunday, beginning at 10 am:

- Our **Nursery** is for infants through two-year olds.
- Our **Godly Play** classroom serves children from age three years old to elementary age.
- Our **Rising Youth** class is our middle school group.

Please email or call, if you would like more information about our programs for children of all ages or if you would like to be a volunteer.

Gratefully, Robin Bastress

814-404-3812

children@standrewsc.org.



Rising Temperatures, Rising Concern, and our Rising Youth



Our class is interested in learning more about ways that people can have a positive impact on our environment. We plan to read about new discoveries in science that can help us to protect our most valuable resources. If any of you share this concern, study, or teach about the environment, please let us know if you can join us to teach or discuss sustainability, green practices and/or new discoveries. We meet at 10 am every Sunday.

To connect with us, please contact Robin at children@standrewsc.org

YOUTH PROGRAMS

J2A CHILI SALE

Sunday, February 13



On Sunday, February 13, the J2A youth will host their annual Super Bowl Chili Fundraiser! A variety of chili types will be sold after the 8:00, 10:00 and 5:00 services. Take home a quart for only \$8, while supplies last!

All proceeds benefit our J2A youth, as they prepare for an Urban Adventure in May 2022 and a Pilgrimage in 2023. Thank you for your support!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACOLYTE TRAINING: Youth and adults are invited!

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

Here is a list that has been shared with families in the past, but maybe **YOU** might find acolyting a great way to serve our church.

5 Reasons YOU should be an Altar Server

- Shared with permission.

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



SAFEGUARDING GOD'S CHILDREN

is looking for a new co-leader

Barb Downs will be stepping down as from her role in coordinating and teaching the required Safeguarding God's Children classes as of May 2022. Rich Marini will take over the lead with this mission and will need someone to assist him. SGC is always done with two leaders.

Please reach out to either one of us if this might be a calling for you. The only criteria for involvement are a commitment to the safety of children, a willingness to hold classes for small groups, the ability to communicate with the leaders of our children's activities and Father Jeff, modest computer and record keeping skills, and attention to state and Diocesan requirements. SGC is truly a shared mission which is part of what makes involvement so rewarding and meaningful.

With thanks to all who work to keep St Andrew's safe,

Rich Marini and Barb Downs

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

LENT MADNESS 2022

March 3 – April 13 www.lentmadness.org

St. Andrew's Bracket Competition

Brackets due February 28, \$5 entry fee to benefit Parishioners' Ministry

The 2022 Beijing Olympics begin in two days, on February 4, but as exciting as that is, we all know it is just a warm-up for the real marquee competition of late winter/early spring – LENT MADNESS!

In this non-traditional Lenten devotion from Forward Movement, 32 saints compete in a tournament-style, single elimination bracket. People vote for their favorites and the winner is awarded the "coveted Golden Halo." This year's bracket is broken up into four themed quadrants - - Martyrs & Mystics, Theologians & Thinkers, Healers & Helpers, and the ever-popular Confusion Corner, which debuted last year. While you may have many favorites among the contestants, there does not appear to be a runaway favorite in this year's contest. Which means it's anybody's bracket to win! Well, you have to be *in* the bracket. And dead. And a saint...

But, you only have to play to win in **our own St. Andrew's bracket competition**. You can find more information, download a bracket, and vote online at the website above. (Or pick up a bracket in the office or Sunday in the narthex.) Complete it and return it to the office by February 28 with your entry fee of \$5. The brackets will be scored and updates provided as the competition progresses. The eventual winner will receive bragging rights and a small gift. **The money collected will be donated to Parishioners' Ministry.**

I strongly encourage you to visit the website if you are not familiar with Lent Madness, want to learn interesting information about saints, read educational commentary from celebrity bloggers, amusing comments from fellow fans, or watch weekly video updates from the Supreme Executive Committee.



Invite friends and family to join in; it is fun, educational, and you will be helping to support an important ministry of our church.

Will Jason McCloskey be able to defend his title? Will Team Staff Infection once again trounce the Community Café? And WHO WILL WIN THE GOLDEN HALO?

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, February 13, 11:15 a.m.
Via Zoom ONLY

Knitting Ministry will meet on Sunday, February 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/>).



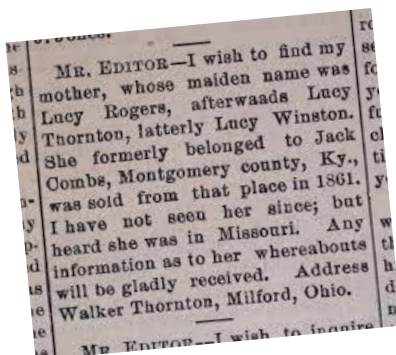
If you would like to come, please email anne.hoag@gmail.com and she will send you a Zoom invitation link. Mark your calendars for the second Sunday of each month through June 2022.

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

BOOK CLUB

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

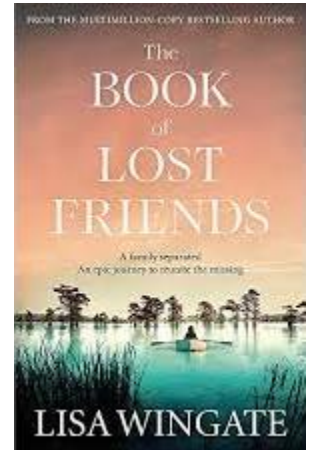
For the month of February, Black History Month, the St. Andrew's Book Group is reading Lisa Wingate's *The Book of Lost Friends*, a 2020 novel inspired by historical events. The "Lost Friends"



were advertisements that appeared in Southern Newspapers after the Civil War as freed slaves searched for family and loved ones who had been sold off.

Following two timelines, the book tells the story of three young women searching for family in the post-Civil War South and of a modern-day teacher who learns their story and sees its vital connection to her students' lives.

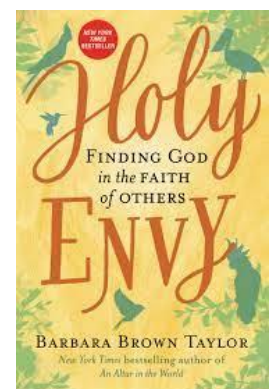
Please join us for discussion on February 22. Visitors and newcomers are always welcome.



COMPASSIONATE LIFE

Our group continues to have interesting, enriching conversations from our reading of Barbara Brown Taylor's *Holy Envy*! We have decided to meet on Zoom for our first gathering in February but may move back to in-person later in the month.

Email youth@standrewsc.org if you'd like to be added to our email list for the latest announcements. We meet the first and third Tuesdays of the month from 9:30am to 11:00. Newcomers are always welcome and don't need to be caught up with the reading to join us!



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 John Pomeroy
2 Lou Barth
3 Marcia Pomeroy
4 Marie Doll
5 Danny Mussett
5 Tom Saiers
5 Dennis Shea
7 Patrick McNutt
7 Janie Brown
10 Carol Robie
10 Jeffrey Packard

11 Rich Marini
11 Ford McNutt
13 Laura Mitchell
14 Gretchen Leathers
16 Diane Irwin
19 Robert Brant
20 Barbara Dewey
21 Risha Shea
21 Sarah Vergamini
21 Barney Dillon
21 Abbey Humphreys

21 John Jones
22 Gillian Dash
23 Lucy Cramer
23 Lucy Rogers
24 Marisa Ferger
24 Eugene Shaw-Colyer
24 Amy Pritchett
26 Nolan Markowski
26 Andrea McCloskey
27 Connie Puckett

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If you have a February 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

Teri, Molly, Dick, Mavis, Frank, Kevin, Diane, Robbie, Sara, Emily, David, Vicki, Donna, Gwen, Sandy, Zach, Jordan, Ty, Joan, Don, Jane, Bill, Vonna, Beth, Erica, Mark, Andrew, Ken, Alma, Ruth, Billy, Blake, Judy

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

Zach, Christie, Sean, Matt

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