



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

November 2023

What Is a Strategic Filter?

As I enter my seventh year as the sixth rector of St. Andrew's, we are finally going ahead with a process of strategic planning. This was something I began talking to the vestry about in my second year here. In fact, we started a process in early 2020 only to be derailed, along with the rest of life on this planet, by that recent unpleasantness known as the pandemic. One of the criticisms I have encountered more than once is that when a process of strategic planning is completed the product is a beautifully published book—with mission and vision statements, strategic goals, and action plans—that then sits on the shelf untouched for ever and ever, amen. This seems like a reasonable criticism, especially as it comes from people's personal experience. So, when the two wardens and I began interviewing consultants to help us with this process, it was refreshing to hear one of the consultants say to the other, "They sound like they need a Strategic Filter, don't they?" My initial response was, "What is a Strategic Filter?"

A Strategic Filter is a planning tool used to make decisions. It is based on an organization's core values (another staple of strategic planning) and is presented in a grid as a series of questions. Groups use it to work through a question, any question or proposal, to make a decision. It is the invention, or perhaps innovation, of the Vandersall Collective, the consultants we decided to hire for this process. We interviewed three of their past clients who described how the filter changed their organization and how it functioned. Those past clients convinced us that this is the way we wanted to go. A Strategic Filter is kind of the response to that common criticism I heard about strategic planning. Rather than produce a set of goals, which is basically a snapshot of our needs and desires in the present moment, it gives us a tool that can be used at every level of our parish that will keep us focused on our most deeply held shared values. As long as our core values don't change over time, the Strategic Filter will continue to be useful for the foreseeable future. It is this dynamic nature of the Filter that most interests me. It can be applied to any question, problem, or proposal. It can be employed by the vestry, one of our committees, or any ministry. It gives us a process to get to an answer rather than giving us an answer.

It all begins with our core values. That will be our first job. In January we will have a survey for all members to take. Our consultants will conduct the survey. Along with the results of the survey and all other sources of information they can get their hands on—Facebook posts, newsletters, vestry minutes, anything else that seems relevant—they will create the set of core values that are indicated. Our vestry, along with a few other selected individuals, will meet for a retreat in February with the consultants to go over all these results. Finally, in March the consultants will work with us on how to utilize our new tool by applying it to three different aspects of parish life of our choosing.

My association with St. Andrew's has been lifelong. The character of this parish has been consistent in my experience. Therefore, I am hopeful that we will create a Strategic Filter based on core values that are stable and speak to who we really are as a group of faithful Christians. That tool will help us continue to serve God and the State College community for years to come. Look for more information about this process in future communications.

Fr. Jeff +



September 2023

| | September | Year-to-Date | % of Budget | 2023 BUDGET |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Parishioner Contributions * | \$ 23,805 | \$ 357,495 | 79% | \$ 454,500 |
| Total Operating Income | \$ 25,709 | \$ 384,420 | 79% | \$ 485,600 |
| Total Operating Expense | \$ 39,114 | \$ 389,025 | 73% | \$ 535,003 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | \$ (13,405) | \$ (4,604) | | |

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



October 2023

The vestry met on October 10 in room 324. Father Jeff reported although the PA DEP grant for the freezers and refrigerators for Community Café was approved, he has not yet received the contract. Allison Shea suggested that the various ministries and groups within the parish community could use the display case in the narthex to advertise and give information about their particular interest group. St. Andrew's is sadly losing Mary Andrew as our financial secretary and Fr. Jeff is actively looking for her replacement.

The vestry is looking for new members to replace those who will complete their 3-year term this year. If you are interested or know someone who you feel would be a great addition, please contact Julie Breuninger at julieknits4@gmail.com.

The Parish Life committee reported that the "Food for the Soul" meetings have all gone very nicely. Pictures will be available. Jason McCloskey gave a stewardship talk on October 15 and Rich Marini spoke at all three services on October 22. The Newcomers Sunday celebration took place on October 29.

Julie Kwasnica, St. Andrew's treasurer, will be leaving State College on Nov. 1. The current plan, "The Julie Plan", put in place on Oct. 1, is to keep Julie on as treasurer, working remotely. We will see how this goes for six months and then revisit the proposal.

Vestry meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is on Nov. 14 in room 324 at 7:00 p.m. All are invited.

Vestry and Convention Delegate Nominations

Once again it is time to nominate candidates to serve on St. Andrews Vestry and as delegates to our 2023 Diocesan Convention. This year's committee, chaired by Julie Breuninger, has initiated the process and will be contacting members to seek eight nominees for the 2023 election. Please consider serving in this capacity with thought and prayer.

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 in good standing who supports the parish through regular financial contributions. Nominations for vestry members **and** convention delegates are due by December 15, 2023. You may self-nominate or nominate someone else. Please make sure your nominee is willing to serve and, for convention delegates, will be available on October 20-21 before submitting his/her name.

You may submit nominations in writing to the church office or by email to Julie Breuninger at julieknits4@gmail.com

All Saints and All the Faithful Departed



Our celebration of All Saints and All the Faithful Departed take place on Sunday, November 5, at both the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services. The names of St. Andrew's members and those you may wish to add who have died since last All Saints Day will be read at both services. There will also be an opportunity during the service for you to speak the names of any additional departed you wish to remember, either silently or aloud.

You may add names to our list of Faithful Departed by contacting the office by phone (814-237-7659) or email (office@standrewsc.org) or online at bit.ly/FaithfulDeparted2023 until the end of day Thursday, November 2.

In the past, we have displayed photographs or artwork to honor and remember our loved ones who have passed away, and holy people from all places and times who have shaped our faith with their example. This year we will display our framed photographs around the sanctuary on the radiators below the stained-glass windows - as we do for creches during Advent and Christmas. We will be surrounded on All Saints Day by saints from our lives as a congregation!

We invite you to bring your framed photographs or artworks to the church office by Friday November 4th (with your name attached to the back). You may pick them up the following week in the church office.

Let's assemble a mighty cloud of witnesses for this holy day!

Evensong

Sunday, November 5

5 p.m., Church

Reception following, Room 325



On Sunday, November 5, at 5 p.m., the Adult Choir will present a service of choral evensong. Music will include the evening canticles in F by George Dyson, Preces and Responses by Richard Shephard, and the anthems *O Lord, Support Us All the Day Long* by Maurice Besley and *Jesu, Grant Me This, I Pray* by C. H. Kitsons. The Rev. Ted Christopher will be the officiant. Organist Gwen Catchen will play music by Johann Pachelbel and others.

Prior to the Reformation, prayer in the early evening or late afternoon was known as the Office of Vespers, one of the eight Canonical Hours of the divine office of the Western church. However, in 1549, the Book of Common Prayer was adopted in the context of the English Reformation. Bishop Thomas Cranmer established the office of Evensong using elements taken from both Vespers and Compline, generally to be conducted in the English language, as was the case with the entire liturgy. Old English speakers translated the Latin word *vesperas* as *æfensang*, which became 'evensong' in modern English.

After a series of slight modifications, the office of Evensong took its modern form in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England, a form that is followed very closely throughout the whole of the Anglican and Episcopal Church throughout the world. This is the form used at St. Andrew's,

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.

A reception will follow in Room 325. There will be no evensong in December, but please join us for the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on December 17. The next evensong will be February 4, 2024, at 5 p.m.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Heather Gregory, Dir. Of Youth
Robin Bastress, Dir. Of Children

Children

Gift Card Blessings for Thanksgiving

Deadline for donations: Sunday, November 12

This holiday season, we are requesting gift cards from **Walmart, Giant, and Weis** for families in need. Gift cards make it possible for families to buy the foods that their family enjoys.

We will need gift cards by **Sunday, November 12th**, to allow time for distribution. On Weekdays, donations can be brought to the Church office. Please write the amount of the card on the card.

Many Thanks for All of the Support you have given to families in need. If you have any questions, please write: children@standrewsc.org



Mt. Nittany Middle School Clothing Drive

Donations accepted:

Friday, November 3, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Saturday, November 4, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Shop at No Cost:

Saturday, November 4, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sunday, November 5, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.



656 Brandywine Drive, State College, PA 16801

**Everyone is Welcome!! Spread the word!
Donate & Come shop with Friends!**

Youth

Invitation from Congregation Brit Shalom

Friday, November 17

6 p.m. tour of synagogue, 7 p.m. worship
...and cookies!



As part of their preparation and discernment, our confirmation class is visiting different houses of worship to learn about their faith beliefs and customs. On Friday, November 17, they will attend worship at Congregation Brit Shalom and anyone from our congregation is invited to join them.

Rabbi Ostrich will take our group on a tour of the synagogue beginning at 6 p.m. and the service begins at 7 p.m. If you are interested in going, please let Heather know by Wednesday, November 15 so Rabbi Ostrich knows how many cookies to buy!

Adult Forum

Sundays in November

9-9:45 a.m. in Canterbury Hall

(Presentations begin promptly at 9 a.m.)



Our Adult Forum presentations continue in November. Watch your weekly emails for more details.

Sunday, November 5 - **Evensong**

Walter Wells and Gwen Catchen will speak about the history, structure, and music of Evensong.

Sunday, November 12- **So, Are There Religious Orders in the Episcopal Church?**

Br. David Rutledge, CFC, a professed Franciscan Friar and founding member of the Community of Francis and Clare, will explore the historical roots of Religious Orders and Communities in the Church of England and eventually the Episcopal Church. Br. David will also discuss his own faith journey and the formation of a new Religious Community in the Episcopal Church.



Sunday, November 19 – **Faith and Food Security**

Daniel and Melanie Foster will share about their travel and agriculture education work in Uganda with faith-based partner, [Field of Hope](#). They will share thoughts and engage participants in a discussion about mindful travel that considers issues of inequality, race, gender, identity, and equity.



Sunday, November 26 – **Hunger, Homelessness, and Domestic Violence**

Michele Hamilton will discuss her work with issues of hunger, homelessness, and domestic violence.

FAITH IN ACTION

PA Interfaith Power and Light Annual Conference

Sunday, November 5

1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Canterbury Hall

Join folks from all faith backgrounds on **Sunday, November 5**, here at St. Andrew's for the **Pennsylvania Interfaith Power & Light 2023 Annual Conference!**

This year's theme is "**No Faith in Fossil Fuels**" and the program will include

- a livestream of keynote speaker, **Sharon Lavigne**, a leader in the environmental justice movement and a person of faith.
- presentations on the role of **native plantings in countering** climate change.
- a field trip to Walnut Springs Park to put some of our new knowledge to use pulling and planting.

PENNSYLVANIA INTERFAITH POWER & LIGHT
2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

**NO FAITH
IN FOSSIL
FUELS**

Sunday
NOV 5, 2023
1-5pm

State College
St Andrew's Episcopal Church
208 W Foster Ave,
State College, PA

1-2PM Virtual Keynote
2-3PM Workshop
3-5PM Field Trip

<https://qrc0.de/beP3xs>

SCAN ME

PENNSYLVANIA
INTERFAITH
POWER LIGHT
Communion of Faith Responding to Climate Change

Conferences are more fun with friends!

Feel free to invite anyone you think might be interested - folks from all backgrounds are welcome!

Any questions, contact Sarah Klinetob Lowe at sek175@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!

The time to register is now! We have three ticket options you can choose from: Friend \$8, Builder \$15, or Supporter \$25. Register now & see full details [HERE](#) (<https://paipiac23.regfox.com/annual-conference-2023>)

State College CROP Hunger Walk



Thank you to everyone who walked in the State College CROP Hunger Walk on a beautiful Sunday afternoon in October. Also, thank you to all those who donated to the walk and helped our Purple People Feeders raise money to fight hunger in Centre County and around the world! The State College CROP Walk collected over \$10,000 this year.

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 23, Noon until 2 p.m.
Dine in



The Community Café will host an in-person Thanksgiving meal on Thursday, November 23, from noon - 2 p.m. The meal will consist of all the traditional favorites: turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, veggies, rolls, and cranberry sauce. There will also be beverages and pies of all kinds.

If you are interested, please contact Ron Rovanseck at rovansek@pacewater.com

CALL FOR TURKEYS: . Frozen turkeys can be left in the **freezer** in Canterbury Hall starting today. If you are dropping off a turkey the week of Thanksgiving, put it in the **refrigerator** in Canterbury Hall. If there is not space, message us and we will figure it out. Whenever you plan to drop off a turkey, please let us know in advance * so we can plan how many turkeys to buy – the turkeys need time to defrost and cannot be purchased at the last minute.



*You can call the office at 814-237-7659 or contact Ron Rovanseck (see below.)

CALL FOR PIES: And of course, the meal is not complete until you've had a slice of pie. We are asking for donations of pies. Pumpkin pie is a traditional favorite, but we would also welcome fruit pies, crème pies, etc. that will allow us to offer a variety to our guests. You can drop off your pies beginning Monday, November 20, through the morning of Thanksgiving.



If you have any questions, please email Ron Rovanseck at (714) 514-8875.

UBBC Alternative Christmas Fair

Sunday, December 3
10:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
University Baptist and Brethren Church
411 S. Burrowes Street, State College
<https://ubbcwelcome.org/acf/>



Thirty of your favorite local, national, and international charities will take part in the 41st UBBC annual Alternative Christmas Fair in the Church's Fellowship Hall, 411 S. Burrowes St., State College. Come to the Fair and visit the booths and displays set up by each charity. This year, back by popular demand, you can also enjoy lunch at the Fair! UBBC provides you with a form where you can designate the charities you want to support and the amount you want to give to each. And you do all of your year-end giving with just one check or credit card swipe! We even provide cards and envelopes so that you can designate gifts in the names of loved

ones or friends. If you can't join us on December 3, you can shop through our online giving option at <https://ubbcwelcome.org/acf/>.

The Alternative Christmas Fair has become a beloved local institution. Since 1982 a total of \$909,885 has been raised for charity by this event. Make the season merrier by supporting the good work of these charities! Join your friends and neighbors at The Alternative Christmas Fair!

UPCOMING

Friday Films

Friday, November 17, 7 p.m.

Room 325

Pizza and refreshments 6:30 p.m.

Film starts 7 p.m.

What Dreams May Come

Rated PG-13 for thematic elements involving death, Suicide, some disturbing images, and language

1 h 56 m



On Friday, November 17, Friday Films will present *What Dreams May Come*, a 1998 film adapted from the 1978 novel by Richard Matheson. The film stars Robin Williams, Annabella Sciorra, and Cuba Gooding, Jr. The title is from a line in *Hamlet's* "To be, or not to be" soliloquy. In the film, a man dies and awakens in the world of his afterlife, a lush and visually rich world based on one of his wife's paintings. He finds no joy in paradise without his wife who now resides in hell for committing suicide. The man undertakes an Orpheus-like journey to save her and reunite.

Please note cautions above regarding death, suicide, and frightening depictions of the afterlife.

We will gather at 6:30 p.m. for pizza and other refreshments. The films will start at 7 p.m.

Friday Films are free and all are welcome.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Rovansek at srovansek@comcast.

St. Andrew's Day Celebration

Thursday, November 30

5 - 7 p.m. St. Andrew's Day Dinner at the Community Café

7 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Church

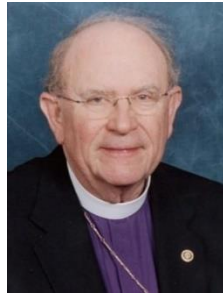
November 30 is the feast day of Saint Andrew, our patron saint, and the patron saint of Scotland. We will celebrate this year with a service of Holy Eucharist at 7 p.m. The Community Café will serve a Scottish dinner in Canterbury Hall from 5 – 7 p.m. If you plan to attend the dinner, please r.s.v.p. at <https://bit.ly/SaintAndrewsDay> to help us determine how many meals to prepare.



The Rt. Rev. Charlie F. McNutt, Jr.

Funeral Mass

Saturday, November 25
11 a.m.
St. Stephen's Cathedral, Harrisburg



[Link to Obituary](#)

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Episcopal Relief & Development fund at www.episcopalrelief.org.

LOOKING AHEAD TO ADVENT

Advent Taizé Services

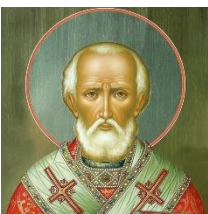
Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20
5:45 p.m. in the Church



On three Wednesday evenings during Advent, we will have a Taizé service 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.

St. Nicholas Visits and Toys For Tots Collection

Sunday, December 3, 10 a.m. service
Advent 1



Do you know the story of St. Nicholas?

St. Nicholas was a bishop in the 3rd century. St. Nicholas dedicated his life to teaching about God's love and serving children and others in need. The famous stories about Santa Claus come from tales of the work of St. Nicholas. On December 3, our children will hear a sermon by Father Ted. We are also looking forward to a visit from our St. Nicholas.

Toys for Tots

We will have baskets in the narthex beginning in November to collect new, unwrapped toys for Toys for Tots. This is a long-standing tradition at St. Andrew's. The children and youth will help us bring the toys to the altar to be blessed during the 10 a.m. service on December 3. Thank you to Greg and Duncan Loviscky who take all of the toys to then be delivered.

Notes

- Ages for toys are infant to **12** years old.
- In 2022, Toys for Tots distributed 24.4 million toys, books, and games to children in need.



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, November 12
11 a.m., Room 324 – In Person
AND Via Zoom

The mission of the Knitting Ministry is fellowship and prayerful/mindful making with our hands for others. We will continue to knit cozy, useful items for Knitting4Peace (News and patterns at <https://www.knitting4peace.org/>).

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

The final 2023 date is December 10. All are welcome!



Peace Pals

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, December 5
7 p.m., Room 324

The Book Group will not meet in November to avoid conflicts with Thanksgiving travel and celebrations. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, December 5 when we will discuss Barbara Kingsolver's *Demon Copperhead*. The book won the 2023 Pulitzer Prize in Fiction and is described on the Pulitzer web page as "a masterful recasting of "David Copperfield," narrated by an Appalachian boy whose wise, unwavering voice relates his encounters with poverty, addiction, institutional failures and moral collapse—and his efforts to conquer them.

Newcomers and guests are always welcome!



FOOD FOR THE SOUL

The Food for the Soul groups have been meeting (and eating!) since September. We have enjoyed sharing a meal, getting to know one another, conversation, and games. Here are a few pictures submitted by the groups:





If you weren't able to join this time around, you will have a chance to sign up again in the new year.

Saints and Sinners Group (8 a.m. service)



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If you have a November 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 Katie Gaines
1 Deborah Morton
1 Tyler Farris
4 Linda Hoover
5 Martha Faller
6 Gwen Catchen
7 Andrew Gaines
8 Anne Hoag
8 Michelle Mason

12 Ru Sabre
13 James Tybout
15 Tom Yuhas
16 Brucie Serene
18 Christina Ford
19 Betty Parry
20 Lauren Krasnansky
20 Christine Mihalenko
20 Carolyn Hatley

20 Mary Valentine
21 Jim Serene
21 Diane Cramer
23 Tony Kwasnica
23 Ted Christopher
23 Larry Murphy
29 Sian Packard



Those For Whom We Pray

Sandy, Erica, Molly, Teri, Janet, Mavis, Dave, Vivian, Joan, Don, Jordan, Ty, Isa, Ivonne, Beti, Lynn, Jay, Stephen, David, Mary, Danny, Leslie, Michael, Joanne, Robert, Bryan, Lisa, Charles, Jane, Arthur, Amy, Peter, Thomas, Annaliese, Laura, Tom, Bev, Amelia, Alison, Cadence, Mena, Alex, Tychelle, Jill, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Bob, Tim, Mandy, Magen, Maria, Vance, Colby, Robert, Vicki, Jeffrey

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

Zach, Christie, Sean, Matt, Andrew, Amy, Zachariah, Cameron, Doug

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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