

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

December 2023

Waiting and Watching

As we enter the season of Advent, we look forward to the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Mary is expecting a baby! Waiting and expectation are major themes during this season, and they fit well with the experience of being pregnant and waiting for the blessed event. Watching the belly swell. Waiting for the first kick. Counting the milestones as the baby develops. And looking forward to how life will be changed when the baby arrives. All of these are part of the experience of having a child. Of course, the time spent waiting for the baby to arrive is not simply a passive waiting. It is a bustling time of preparation, everything from preparing a room for the baby, to accumulating clothes, toys, and equipment related to caring for the baby. All these experiences transfer to the season of Advent.

This is a season of waiting—waiting for Christmas, waiting for Christ's promised return, waiting upon the Lord. But it is not a passive waiting, like waiting for a bus. It is a time to prepare. Instead of preparing to care for a baby, we prepare to receive Jesus anew at Christmastime. We prepare ourselves, working and praying to align our own wills with the priorities of God we see embodied in Our Lord's life and teaching. We prepare the world around us, as we seek to partner with God in building the kingdom of God in this life. We prepare for the unknown and mysterious.

“Watch!” is another word we hear from Scripture during Advent. We are told to keep watch because the kingdom of God can come like a thief in the night. To watch is to pay attention. During this season we train ourselves to pay attention to what God is already doing in the world around us. We watch for God's hand in new and surprising ways. No one was expecting the Son of God to be born humbly in a stable and laid in a manger. Where might God surprise us in the future? We have to watch and wait, or we might miss it.

Just like our expectation of a baby to be born, Advent is a season of joyful expectation. Looking forward we watch, and wait, and hope, even as we look backward to all we already know and have experienced about God and Jesus. Remembering the past and anticipating the future, we enter this season with a powerful sense of hope and expectation.

Fr. Jeff+



TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer

October 2023



	October	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2023 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 37,753	\$ 395,248	87%	\$ 454,500
Total Operating Income	\$ 40,269	\$ 424,689	87%	\$ 485,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 43,745	\$ 432,769	81%	\$ 535,003
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (3,475)	\$ (8,080)		

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

CAMPUS MINISTRY

TED Talk

Looking back,
Looking ahead



Episcopal at Penn State has had a busy and productive fall on campus – discovering new collaborative possibilities for ministry as well as continuing to be present to the larger ecosystem of religious and spiritual organizations at Penn State.

Our president, Rick Yoder, our vice president, Austin Norrid, and our treasurer, Alex Coberly, are engaged and innovative in their work, meeting regularly to plan and organize activities for the group. I am grateful for their leadership. We continue our regular Sunday evening gatherings, for fellowship, food, and prayer. We welcomed some new students early in the fall and on an ongoing basis to these gatherings – a blessing. I also continue to celebrate Holy Eucharist in the meditation chapel on campus weekly on Wednesdays at 12:15. This is a special and contemplative time for the few folks who show up on a regular basis, and it also is an important (often overlooked) role that campus ministry plays: to be present, on campus, with the Sacraments of the church, on a regular basis, inviting any and all to come and receive.

In late October, we led a service of Choral Evensong in the Worship Hall of Pasquerilla in collaboration with Concert Choir, the premier vocal ensemble at Penn State. I was grateful to my colleague, Prof. Christopher Kiver, who thought this would be a good use of Concert Choir's time (!), and their participation was lovely ('other worldly' as Alex Coberly put it). This event has helped Episcopal at Penn State to imagine an initiative of ministry and engagement that we would like to work towards – specifically the creation of a Choral Scholars program that would support 6-8-10 singers who would participate in the liturgy and ministry of Episcopal at Penn State. This is an intersection of what our particular liturgical tradition could offer the larger ecosystem of Penn State and my particular role as a bi-vocational chaplain and faculty member in the School of Music. The group is working on grant applications to various organizations to help support this – and we are all hopeful that this will bear fruit. Thank you for your prayers as this exciting new direction for ministry emerges on campus.

Blessings to St. Andrew's and to our campus ministry as we enter the season of Advent! Come Lord Jesus!

Ted+

WORSHIP

Kevin Lowe – Ordination to the Diaconate

Saturday, December 16

10 a.m., St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral, Harrisburg



By the Grace of God,
The Right Reverend Audrey C. Scanlan
XI Bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

Will Ordain

**Kevin Matthew Lowe,
Lo Alexandra Selles,
and
Lisa Amspacher Work**

To The Sacred Order of Deacons
In Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church

On Saturday, December 16, 2023
At Ten o'clock in the morning

At

St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral
221 North Front Street, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

Your prayers and presence are requested, and so appreciated.

Reception will follow.

Clergy are invited to vest and process (red stole).

If you are unable to attend, the service will be live-streamed
(<https://youtube.com/@st.stephensepiscopalcathed4738?si=XSCqFW9XkiQQ0tsNI>).

Please RSVP at

<https://forms.gle/yy7C6YGS5rtnmDyN8>

Congratulations, Kevin! Everyone is invited to attend the ordination in Harrisburg on December 16. Details are provided in the official invitation above.

SAVE THE DATE Parish Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2023
Following 10 o'clock service

More information to follow.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



Taizé Prayer Services

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

First Sunday in Advent – December 3

- 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I
- 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II
Church School
Nursery available
Children's sermon and visit from St. Nicholas
Presentation of Toys for Tots donations
- 5 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Second Sunday in Advent – December 10

- 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I
- 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II
Church School
Nursery available
- 5 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Third Sunday in Advent – December 17

- 8 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I
- 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II
- 5 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols
Nursery open for family use (unattended)
No 5 p.m. eucharist this week
Reception in Canterbury Hall following the service

Fourth Sunday in Advent/Christmas Eve, December 24

- 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II
- 5 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II
Family Service with Nativity
Nursery open for family use (unattended)
- 9:30 p.m. A Prelude of Music for the Season
- 10 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I

Christmas Day, December 25

- 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II
Nursery open for family use (unattended)



CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

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

Children

Advent means “coming.” We will celebrate the weeks of waiting for the birth of baby Jesus.

Each week of Advent we say a prayer and light a candle to remind us to keep **hope, love, joy, and peace** in our hearts.



Do you know the story of St. Nicholas?

St. Nicholas was a bishop in the third century. St. Nicholas dedicated his life to teaching about God’s love and serving the needs of children and those in need, The famous stories about *Santa Claus* came from the telling of the work of St. Nicholas.



St. Nicholas will visit us on December 3rd. This is the Sunday that we will bring new, unopened gifts to donate to children in need. Our gifts will be blessed on the altar and donated to Toys for Tots. All of our children will receive a small gift from St. Nicholas and hear a sermon from Father Ted.



Our Toys and Out of the Cold Houses Will be Blessed, too.



Do you hear what I hear?

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy...

Christmas Pageant

Rehearsal: Sunday, December 17, following 10 a.m. service

Pageant: During 5 o'clock service, Christmas Eve



We are preparing for **our Christmas Pageant**.

Our rehearsal is scheduled for December 17 after the 10 a.m. service for everyone who is available to come! We will meet in the main church. This year, the children will choose their parts before Christmas Eve.

If you have any questions, please write to Robin children@standrewsc.org

Traditions of Giving - Continued:

Gift Card Blessings have been extended and will now be accepted through December 17.

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 food and necessities that their family needs.

We will need gift cards by **Sunday, December 17**, 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



Advent Adult Forum: The Voices of Advent

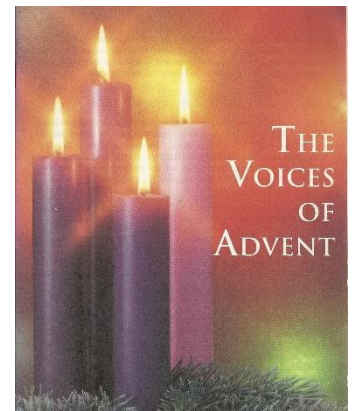
Sunday December 3, December 10, and December 17

9 – 9:45 a.m.

Canterbury Hall

During the season of Advent, we hear many voices—voices of prophets, voices of angels, voices of people like John the Baptist and Mary. In our Adult Forums on the first three Sundays in Advent, we will reflect on these different voices - on what they announced, on what they called God's people to do and to be, on what they have to say to us in the twenty-first century.

Join us as Father Jeff leads us through these listening sessions as we tune in to the Voices of Advent.



OUTREACH

COMMUNITY CAFÉ

Christmas Day Meal

5 – 7 p.m., Canterbury Hall



The Community Café will continue the tradition they began last year by serving a meal on Christmas Day. Like the Thanksgiving meal, this holiday feast will be served in -person in Canterbury Hall, free, and open to all.

Hams Needed

The Christmas meal will feature ham and traditional side dishes and desserts. If you would like to contribute a ham, you can bring it to the refrigerator or freezer in Canterbury Hall any time. If you have any questions, please contact Ron Rovansek at rrovansek@pacewater.com or check with a Café volunteer.

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

Interfaith Human Services Bell Ringing

December 8, 15, and 16

Downtown Waffle Shop and Meyer Dairy

Christmas is coming and you know what that means!

Interfaith Human Services is standing by its Wishing Wells in December to help Centre County residents in need.



The hours are shorter this year. We will be on duty weekends only, and with earlier ending times. We also have a new location: **THE DOWNTOWN WAFFLE SHOP**. St. Andrew's will take Saturday December 16 at Meyer Dairy from 10 a.m. till 8 p.m., and also Fridays December 8 and 15 at the Waffle Shop.

If you have any questions, please email Marion Schwartz at kmarsch09@gmail.com, call her at (814) 880-6418 or see her at coffee hour. Links to sign up are below.

Sign up for [December 8 \(Waffle Shop\)](#)

[December 15 \(Waffle Shop\)](#)

[December 16 \(Meyer Dairy\)](#)

Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, December 29
11 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Canterbury Hall

This holiday season, give the gift of life.

Schedule your appointment today

Online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter StAndrewsEC

Or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

Advent Taizé Services

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



For three Wednesday evenings during Advent, we will have a Taizé service in person, in the church. Taizé at St. Andrew's is a short service of music, readings, intercessions, and silence by candlelight lasting about 30 minutes. Consider including this time of contemplation and reflection as part of your Advent this year.

FRIDAY FILMS:

The Polar Express

Friday, December 15
6:30 p.m., Pizza and snacks
7 p.m., Movie starts
Canterbury Hall



Get your ticket ready as Friday Films presents the holiday classic, *The Polar Express*. A young boy, lying awake one Christmas Eve, is welcomed aboard a magical train to the North Pole, the Polar Express. The movie is based on a Caldecott Medal-winning book by Chris Van Allsburg.

The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with pizza and other refreshments. At 7 p.m., it is "All Aboard!" as we begin our journey on the Polar Express. As always, Friday Film movies are free and all are welcome!



If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Rovanssek at srovanssek@comcast.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 17

5 p.m., Church (no 5 p.m. eucharist this Sunday)

Nursery available for families (unattended)

Reception following in Canterbury Hall



St. Andrew's annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 17, 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. First broadcast in 1928, it is now broadcast to millions of people around the world. The service has become a 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.

As we have done for the past several years, we have invited individuals who play important roles in our community to participate as guest readers. This year's guests include:

Ezara Nanes, State College Borough Mayor

Susan Marshall, Founding Member and Secretary of Centre LGBTQ+

Joyce Robinson, Assistant Director of the Palmer Museum of Art

Marisa Vicere, President and Founder of the Jana Marie Foundation

Rick Yoder, President of Episcopal at Penn State

And readers from the congregation are:

Sadie Wentzel, representing the choir

Sean McGarry, representing our youth members

Walter Wells, St. Andrew's Music Director

In our own St. Andrew's tradition, we will host a festive reception in Canterbury Hall following the service. Everyone is welcome – please invite friends and family.

TOOT-IN-COMMON CONCERT

Monday, December 18

7:30 p.m., Church

The flute choir Toot-in-Common, founded by St. Andrew's Judy Moore, will give a free one-hour holiday concert on Monday, December 18 at St. Andrew's Episcopal. Toot-in-Common features seasonal and modern repertoire arranged for Piccolo, C Flute, Alto Flute, Bass Flute, and Contra Bass Flute. Free-will offerings are welcome.



For more information, contact Judy Moore at flautodolce@comcast.net.

Join the artists for a light reception following the concert.

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 10, 11:15 a.m.
Room 324

We will have a special visitor!

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.

The next meeting will be January 14, 2024! To join our email list, or for more information contact Anne Hoag, anne.hoag@gmail.com.



BOOK CLUB

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

The Book Group will meet Tuesday, December 5 to 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!



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
3 Jeffrey Kern
4 Andy Stephenson
4 Medora Ebersole
4 Edward Brown
4 Lois Murphy
7 Bill Donovan
7 Denny Houseman

8 Frank Vergamini
8 Jerrilyn Muth-Kern
12 Kitty Mussett
14 Katie Mussett
14 Sandy Schwartz
16 James Harper
17 Rebekah Dawson-Rigas
17 Abigail Skvarla

20 Bruce Cramer
22 Shane Markowski
22 Mimi Reed
23 Pete Arnett
23 Jennifer Irvin
25 Jesus
26 Colton Dash
27 Vaun Skvarla



Those for Whom We Pray

Sandy, Erica, Molly, Teri, Janet, Mavis, Dave, Vivian, Joan, Don, Jordan, Ty, Isa, Ivonne, Beti, Bryan, Joanne, Michael, Robert, Jane, Charles, Betty, Robin, Joelle, Bill, Richelle, Ulicia

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

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

Our Sister City in Ukraine

Nizhyn

Our Companion Parish

St. John's, Bellefonte

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

208 W. FOSTER AVENUE
STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801



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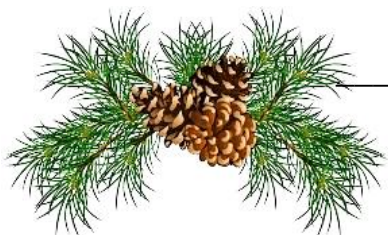
Christmas Greens

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 17**. Remember to indicate "Christmas Greens" in the memo line of your check.

Given by _____

In memory of _____

As a thank offering for _____



Amount _____