

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

**February 2024**

## **Preparing to Celebrate: The Purpose of Lent**

Odd that this year Lent begins on St. Valentine's Day. It seems quite a contrast to think of heart-shaped boxes of chocolates and bouquets of flowers on the same day as crude crosses of ash on our foreheads reminding us of our mortality and dependence on the grace of God. Yet Valentine himself would have appreciated the overlap, I believe. He was a bishop of the early church about whom not a lot of detail is known, but that he was martyred is a detail we hold up in the church. He surely knew something of his own mortality and his dependence on God's grace. I suppose the strange juxtaposition of holiday traditions is no stranger than the bunnies and colored eggs we associate with Easter. The stores have had Valentine's Day treats on display since the week after Christmas. Now those heart-shaped boxes are right next to the chocolate eggs, jellybeans, and marshmallow peeps in the store. The world doesn't understand Lent any more than it understands Advent.

In December, when the church was preparing to celebrate our Savior's birth, the world was celebrating the annual festival of paying tribute to the retail gods. By the time the 25<sup>th</sup> arrives, most of us are sick of Christmas. I find it jarring how every year as soon as New Year's Day is over, most of the Christmas lights go dark. Indeed, one often sees sad, spent Christmas trees on the curb as early as December 26. After spending four weeks preparing, I prefer to celebrate for the whole 12 days of the season. It is much the same with Easter. The world wants to skip the 40 days of Lent and go straight to the baskets full of candy. Then, once we pass Easter Day, it is on to the next thing without any understanding of the Great 50 Days of Easter. The church in her wisdom set these seasons of preparation before the biggest holy days of the year. They give us the time and spiritual space to focus on the story of Jesus' birth or his death and resurrection. Without that preparation we would wake up one morning, shout "Merry Christmas," or "The Lord is risen indeed," and then we would be on to the next thing. Instead, our whole liturgical year is shaped by the story of Jesus' life. Annually we walk through the events surrounding his birth—the annunciation by the Angel Gabriel, Mary's visitation with Elizabeth who was pregnant with John the Baptist, the holy family's difficult trip to Bethlehem—and all the dramatic events surrounding his crucifixion—the Last Supper, the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus' arrest and trial, his crucifixion, death and burial, and finally the empty tomb. These narratives invite us to experience again the emotional impact of Jesus' life and ministry. They put us in the scene, so to speak, and help us feel close to our Lord. Basically, Advent and Lent are a witness to us all of how important Christmas and Easter are.

So, again we begin those 40 days when we focus on repentance, mortification of the flesh, and the depth of God's love. The point being, as it always is, not to make us feel bad or guilty, but to help us be totally present at the tomb on Easter morning, to hold before us just how powerful God's love is, to help us appreciate the gift of salvation. Lent is about Good News. Its austerity intensifies the joy of Easter. It's inward focus on discipline and spiritual practice forms us more perfectly into the image of God. It's fasting merely a prelude to the exuberant feasting of the season of resurrection. Don't miss it. Don't allow yourself to be seduced by the world's fascination with consumption and self-indulgence. Keep this season with intentionality and devotion. Open yourself to the amazing grace of God. Allow it to shape you. Allow it to prepare you for citizenship in the kingdom of God. Don't skip the difficult or unpleasant part but embrace it. Do during Lent whatever you need to do to be prepared to truly celebrate Easter when it comes at long last. Then celebrate all 50 days!

Fr. Jeff+



**December 2023**

	<b>December</b>	<b>Year-to-Date</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>	<b>2023 BUDGET</b>
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 66,044	\$ 486,997	107%	\$ 454,500
Total Operating Income	\$ 69,726	\$ 523,488	108%	\$ 485,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 53,310	\$ 527,039	99%	\$ 535,003
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 16,416	\$ (3,551)		

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



**January 2024**

The vestry met on January 9, 2024, in Room 324. Father Ted opened it with a prayer.

Fr. Jeff updated the vestry on the elevator status. It is still not repaired, but we will proceed with the next step to repair it.

A \$5,000 payment was made to the Vandersall group and another payment will be made in three months. The consultation fees are paid primarily from the O'Connor Extraordinary Fund, although each member of the vestry also contributed.

The vestry unanimously approved the plan to continue renting Trinity House to students for the years 2024-2027.

The next vestry meeting is on February 13 at 7 p.m. in Room 324. All are welcome.

**2024 Annual Meeting**

The following parishioners were elected at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 28. Their terms will run from January 2024 to December 2027. Congratulations!

**Candace Davison**



**Katie Gaines**



**Anthony Grillo**



**Andrea McCloskey**



The following slate of Diocesan Convention delegates was elected : Anthony Grillo, Carolee Grillo, Michele Marini, Rich Marini, Kelley Paulsen, Allison Shea and alternates Paul Hochreiter and Laurel Zydney.

If you missed the Annual Meeting, you can:

- download or view a copy of the agenda and reports [HERE](#).
- watch a recording of the meeting [HERE](#) and
- download or read a copy of the Rector's Address [HERE](#).

A link to the minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting will be published once they have been approved.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### FROM OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:

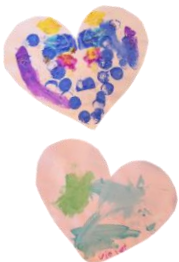
Happy February 2024!

Robin Bastress

Love to our children, families & teachers.

Sunday mornings: Stories, Fun & Fellowship during the 10 am service.

For more information email: [children@standrewsc.org](mailto:children@standrewsc.org)



## Nursery

Heather Gregory

[youth@standrewsc.org](mailto:youth@standrewsc.org)

We are happy to introduce our new Nursery Attendant, **Olivia Blake**.

Olivia is a student at Penn State majoring in Advertising and Public Relations. She comes from Severna Park, Maryland. Olivia has experience working in an after school care program at an Episcopal school back home, and for the past two summers, she has been employed as a full-time nanny.

We are very excited to have her in our nursery. Be sure to introduce yourself to her and welcome her to St. Andrew's.



## Adult Education

Sundays

11:15 a.m. (following the 10 a.m. service)

Canterbury Hall

Presentations begin promptly at 9 a.m.



Sunday, February 11

**The Society of St. Vincent de Paul**

Presented by Janet Haner

Janet Haner from the Society of St. Vincent de Paul will talk about the outreach programs of St. Vincent de Paul and the operation of their Thrift Store.

Sunday, February 18

**Psalms Enchanted Morning**

Presented by Gwen Catchen and Walter Wells

Following on the heels of Philip Jenkins' presentations on the psalms, Gwen Catchen and Walter Wells will look at the psalms from a musical standpoint. We will explore the history of the singing of them in services, and the many ways they can be sung. Bring your voices and be prepared to raise them in psalm song!

Sunday, February 25

**Strategic Planning**

Presented by Jeff Packard and our Senior and Junior Wardens

Following a day-long retreat with the vestry and our consultants from the Vandersall Collective, Fr. Jeff and our wardens will present an update on the results of the core values survey we recently completed and a look ahead at the next steps in our strategic planning process.

## Women of the Bible

Sunday, February 18 and March 3

11:15 a.m. (following the 10 a.m. service)

Room 119

Daughters of the King invite all women of St. Andrew's to participate in this Bible study on the women of the Bible.

- February 18 - **Ruth** (Ruth:1:1-7; 2:1-9; 3:1-14; 4:1-10, 13-17)
- Sunday, March 3 - **Mary, the mother of Jesus** (Luke 1:26-38, 46-56; 2:1-7)

If you have questions, please contact Kelley Paulsen or Michele Marini.

## UPCOMING

### FOOD FOR THE SOUL, Part Deux

**DEADLINE:** We need to hear from you by **February 20.**

**Sign up at** <https://bit.ly/FoodfortheSoulStAndrews>

Warm up your winter with fellowship and new friends!

Do you already feel isolated this cold winter? Join the warmth of St. Andrews' Food for the Soul groups! We started this fall with over 50 people who have gathered in homes, restaurants and other places once a month to eat, drink, play games, have conversation, fun and fellowship! It's been so much fun, we want others to join us!

We're continuing with the following interest groups for fellowship:

- Dinner and Conversation in rotating host homes
- Dinner and Board Games/Cards in rotating host homes
- Dinner out at area restaurants
- Lunch out at area restaurants (weekdays)
- Family Fun - This can be anywhere of your group's choice!

Whether you are new to Food for the Soul or if you participated this fall, we need you to complete the signup form **HERE**. Based on the information you provide, everyone will be sorted into new groups of 6 – 8 people to give everyone a chance to get to know someone new.

Come Join us for Faith through Fun! Get to know each other in Fellowship!

Questions? Please contact

Fran at [fstevenson47@comcast.net](mailto:fstevenson47@comcast.net) or 814-876-2820

or Kathy Dittmann at [kadittmann2@gmail.com](mailto:kadittmann2@gmail.com) or 814-880-5820



## UPCOMING

### LADIES AFTERNOON TEA

Saturday, February 10  
2 p.m., Room 325

The Daughters of the King invite you to an Afternoon Tea Party! Take a break from the cold and gloom of mid-winter with a hot cup of tea and some cheerful conversation and fellowship. All women of the parish are welcome.

If you have any questions, please contact Michele Marini or Kitty Mussett.



### FRIDAY FILMS (on Saturday)

Saturday, February 17  
5 p.m., Canterbury Hall

Short intermission and pizza at 7 p.m.

*Oppenheimer* (2023)

Rated R  
3 hours



On a special date and time, Friday Films is proud to present *Oppenheimer* as its selection for February. Due to the length of the film, it will begin at 5 p.m. on Saturday, February 17. There will be a half-hour break at approximately 7 p.m. Pizza and snacks will be provided. Admission is free, and all are welcome.

*Oppenheimer*, directed by Christopher Nolan and nominated for 13 Academy Awards, is a dramatization of the life of J. Robert Oppenheimer and his work with the Manhattan Project in developing the atomic bomb. It stars Cillian Murphy in the title role as well as Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, Robert Downey, Jr., and Kenneth Branagh.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**OFFICE**  
**HOURS**

Beginning Monday, February 12,  
The church office will be open from  
**9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**Monday - Friday**



# SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

*Hosted by Parish Life*

## All-You-Can-Eat

Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs, and Applesauce

Served Continuously

5:00 - 7:00 pm

Tues., February 13, 2024

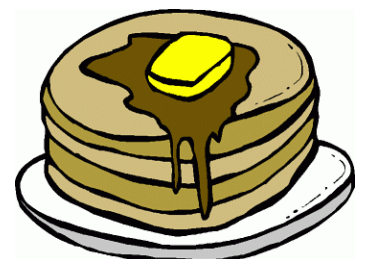
Canterbury Hall

**TICKETS** on sale after church Feb 11, 2024:

\$5 (Adults), \$4 (ages 3 - 12)

After February 19:

\$6 (Adults), \$5 (ages 3 - 12)



## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, February 14

**Holy Eucharist** offered at

7:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 7 p.m. (sung)

**Ashes-to-Go** offered in front of St. Andrew's

2 – 3 p.m.



## TAIZÉ PRAYER

Wednesdays in Lent

February 21, February 28, [\* March 6], March 13, March 20

5:15 p.m. in the church

Taizé is a candle-lit, meditative service of music, silence, brief readings, and prayer lasting approximately 35 minutes. It is coordinated by the Daughters of the King and the music is led by Steve and Lisa Hopkins. Taizé is usually offered at St. Andrew's during Advent and Lent.

\* We will skip March 8 due to Spring Break.



## LENTEN SUPPER AND PROGRAM

Wednesdays in Lent

February 21, February 28, [\* March 6], March 13, March 20

Canterbury Hall

6 p.m. Dinner (Provided by St. Andrew's; suggested donation \$10)

6:45 p.m. Program

\* We will skip March 8 due to Spring Break.

**Theme:** “And who is my neighbor? Exploring storytelling in faith and morality”

Jesus summarized the Law: “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself.” Then to justify himself a man asked, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus’ answer was a story, the story of the Good Samaritan.

Stories are how we make sense of the world. We learn about our faith from stories. Much of the Old Testament is narrative. Jesus told stories. The story of Jesus himself—his life, death, resurrection, and ascension—is at the heart of the Christian faith.

Join us for this series which will explore how we use stories to engage and express our faith, how we tell our own story within the framework of our faith, and how we can learn to listen to and support each other in this process.

Presenters will approach the subject from the perspectives of the Bible, oral storytelling, poetry, and improvisational theater. This will be an interactive program, so come and be ready to tell your story (and listen to stories too).



### Wednesday, February 21

6:00 p.m. Dinner (provided)

6:45-8:00 Program

**“The Bible, The Christian Faith, and Stories”** presented by the Rev. Jeff Packard

In this session we will explore how the Christian faith is shaped by stories. Beginning with the parable of the Good Samaritan, and looking at other stories Jesus told. We will look at the ancient stories of the Hebrew Scriptures and begin to discuss how we understand our own life story in the context of the stories of our faith.

### Wednesday, February 28

6:00 p.m. Dinner (provided)

6:45-8:00 Program

**“The Neighbor Speaks: Poetry, Persona, and Point of View”** presented by Marjorie Maddox, professor of English and Creative Writing at the Lock Haven campus of Commonwealth University

In this generative poetry workshop, we’ll focus on point-of-view and the persona poem, including how such literary techniques can shape our narratives and lead to a deeper understanding of “our neighbor.” No writing experience necessary. Come ready to discuss, write, laugh, and learn. Join us!

### Wednesday, March 13

6:00 p.m. Dinner (provided)

6:45-8:00 Program

**“Storytelling Workshop”** presented by Anne Hoag of State of the Story

Like The Moth, whose *Moth Radio Hour* you may have heard on NPR, State of the Story (SOS) is dedicated to the craft of storytelling. They offer instruction in storytelling as well as live performances, usually with an open-ended theme. We will experience both in this presentation.

### Wednesday, March 20

6:00 p.m. Dinner (provided)

6:45-8:00 Program

**“Telling Our Story through Improv”** presented by Andrea McCloskey, co-founder and company member of Happy Valley Improv

In this workshop we will use improv theater games and exercises to practice creating and embodying stories with one another. We will practice the tenets of improv, including listening, accepting, and building off the truths established by the collective. This will be low-pressure and accessible to all... there is no expectation to have acting experience; no need to be funny or quick-witted! All that you need is a willingness to try something new and have fun with others!

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays in Lent

February 23, March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22

In person, in the Nave

On Facebook (recorded)

On YouTube (recorded)

<https://youtu.be/6plHoQ95Q6U>

5:15 p.m.

7:00 p.m.

Anytime

(ctrl + click on link or photo)



# Lent at St. Andrew's - 2024



## SHROVE TUESDAY

Tuesday, February 13

5 - 7 p.m.

**PANCAKE SUPPER**

Canterbury Hall

## ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 14

**WORSHIP** in the church except as noted

7:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist (spoken)  
with Imposition of Ashes

12:15 p.m.

Holy Eucharist (spoken)  
with Imposition of Ashes

2 - 3 p.m.

Ashes to Go, Imposition of Ashes

In front of the church

7 p.m.

Holy Eucharist (sung)  
with Imposition of Ashes

## WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

February 21, February 28, (March 6), March 13, March 20,

12:15 p.m.

**NOONDAY PRAYER**

On Facebook Live

5:15 p.m.

**TAIZÉ** (No March 6)

In the church

6 p.m.

**LENTEN SUPPER** (No March 6)

Provided by St. Andrew's  
\$10 suggested donation

6:45 p.m.

**LENTEN PROGRAM** (No March 6)

Dinner and programs in  
Canterbury Hall

## FRIDAYS IN LENT

February 23, March 1, March 8, March 15, March 22

5:15 p.m.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** in the Nave

7 p.m.

On Facebook (recorded)

## MONDAY THROUGH SATURDAY IN LENT

**MORNING PRAYER**

8:30 a.m.

Monday - Friday  
Monday - Saturday

In the nave  
On Zoom

## GROUPS, MINISTRIES, & COMMITTEES

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

### KNITTING MINISTRY

Sunday, February 11  
11:15 a.m.  
Room 324 and via Zoom

Join the Knitting Ministry on Sunday, February 12, as we meet knit cozy, useful items for Knitting4Peace (News and patterns at <https://www.knitting4peace.org/>).

Please email [anne.hoag@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hoag@gmail.com) for a link if you would like to join the group by Zoom or if you have any questions.



Items made by the Knitting Ministry.

### COMPASSIONATE LIFE

Tuesday, February 6  
Tuesday, February 20  
9:30 a.m., Room 325

Compassionate Life is the women's group at St. Andrew's. They meet twice a month for conversation, prayer, support and book discussion with a mix of social events, outreach projects, and guest speakers throughout the year.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurel Zydney [laurelzemail@gmail.com](mailto:laurelzemail@gmail.com) or Darlene Nordoff [dnordoff737@gmail.com](mailto:dnordoff737@gmail.com)

### DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Sunday, February 12 and  
Sunday, February 26  
11:30 a.m., Room 119

The Daughters of the King will meet twice in February, following the 10 a.m. service in Room 119

### BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, February 27  
7 p.m., Room 324 (Library)

The Book Club will meet on February 27 to discuss *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan*, the story of a friendship between two girls as they grow into women in 19th century China written by Lisa See.

Newcomers and visitors are always welcome.



## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 John Pomeroy	11 Ford McNutt	23 Lucy Cramer
2 Lou Barth	14 Gretchen Leathers	23 Lucy Rogers
3 Marcia Pomeroy	14 Paula Wickland	24 Marisa Ferger
4 Marie Doll	16 Peter Jackson	24 Eugene Shaw-Colyer
5 Danny Mussett	16 Diane Irwin	24 Amy Pritchett
5 Tom Saiers	19 Robert Brant	26 Nolan Markowski
5 Dennis Shea	21 Risha Shea	26 Andrea McCloskey
7 Patrick McNutt	21 Sarah Vergamini	27 Connie Puckett
7 Janie Brown	21 Barney Dillon	28 Karen Dabney
10 Carol Robie	21 Abbey Humphreys	
10 Jeffrey Packard	21 John Jones	
11 Rich Marini	22 Gillian Dash	

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** If you have a January 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**

Sandy, Mavis, John, Mena, Molly, Erica, Jane, Joan, Don, Stu, Beth, Joe, Laura, Jordan, Ty, Isa, Rob, Curtis, Kevin, Diane, Frank, Robbie, Sara, Emily, Vicki, David, Curtis, Roger, Kathy, Bev, Sue, Anthony, Jacque

### **Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders**

Zach, Christie, Sean, Matt, Eric, Andrew, Amy

## **SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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