

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

May 2024

Practice God's Presence

On the last Sunday in May, the 26th, we will bless bikes after the 10:00 service. This is an event we started some years ago that has become a favorite. So, plan to bring your bicycle, tricycle, motorcycle, or really anything that goes on wheels, to church that day and we will bless it. We ride around the block then just for fun.

One could reasonably ask: why do we bless bikes? For that matter, why do we bless animals in the fall, or anything? One answer I could give to that question regarding bikes would talk about how our bicycles are a way for us to be good stewards of the bodies God has given us. I could say that regular exercise glorifies God in that it helps us maintain our health and our ability to do ministry in God's name. I could further talk about how riding a bike with your family or friends contributes to your mental health and builds strong relationships of mutual support, and even strengthens the fabric of society in the process. I could talk about how being on the road or on a trail helps us enjoy God's beautiful creation and inspires us to be better stewards of that creation. All these things are true. All these things, and probably more, are good reasons for us to bring our bikes to church for a blessing once a year. We can make a similar list for why we bless our pets. But the fundamental question remains. Why bless these parts of our daily lives?

Our Celtic ancestors in the Faith were really good at praying for and blessing even the most mundane things and activities they would encounter or engage in during their day. We're not talking about elaborate prayers. No, just simple little prayers that can be muttered in a short breath. There is a prayer for starting a fire, a prayer for milking a cow, a prayer for crossing a river, a prayer for just about everything. I love this prayer for going through a graveyard, "God greet you, all gathered here, may God and Mary greet you. As we are now, so once were you, as you are now, so shall we be. May all of us prosper under the bright King of the world." This approach to daily life sees all our activities as happening in God's sight and under God's protection. By invoking God's blessing or help, we dedicate even the simplest task to God's glory. We place a hedge of blessing around ourselves and those we love. We infuse our day with meaning and purpose. We remind ourselves that God is always present and cares about us more than we can imagine.

So, in an attempt to bolster an awareness of God's presence, we bless our bikes, our backpacks, and our beagles. You may already say a prayer before eating. Try saying a little prayer every time you get into your car asking for safe travel. Pray for those in other cars you encounter on your way. Say a prayer when you get out of your car thanking God for arriving safely. Here's one that will keep you praying without ceasing. Say a prayer every time you pick up your phone asking God to help you use its power of communication and information for good. These practices can become habit. You can get to the point where you do it unconsciously, wordlessly turning your heart toward God repeatedly through your day.

The Practice of the Presence of God is a book written by a seventeenth century French monk known as Brother Lawrence. In it, he speaks about cultivating a continual awareness of God's presence. He sums it up this way, "Let us occupy ourselves entirely in knowing God. The more we know him, the more we will desire to know him. As love increases with knowledge, the more we know God, the more we will truly love him."



March 2024

	March	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2024 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 54,524	\$ 165,867	38%	\$ 432,500
Total Operating Income	\$ 57,857	\$ 174,853	38%	\$ 464,100
Total Operating Expense	\$ 41,430	\$ 137,020	25%	\$ 555,264
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 16,427	\$ 37,833		

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

VESTRY UPDATE



At its meeting on April 9, the vestry gave a final endorsement for Kevin Lowe to be ordained to the priesthood. It was decided to sponsor the Pride events with a \$300 sponsorship to be directed by the rector from the Kathy Palmer Fund for outreach. There was much discussion about the proposed list of Core Values from our consultants the Vandersall Collective. A special meeting was called to discuss the proposed values and formulate a response. We are nearing the end of this process and will have the final product of a Strategic Filter presented to us at our May meeting along with training in how to use it.

Vestry meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month and are always open to all parishioners. The next vestry meeting will be Tuesday, May 14, at 7pm in room 324. Approved vestry minutes are always available on our website (“Clergy, Staff & Vestry” under the “About Us” tab).

EVENSONG

Sunday, May 5, 5 p.m.

Church

Reception, 6 p.m., Room 325



Choral
Evensong
at 5pm

On Sunday, May 5, the Adult Choir will present a service of choral evensong. Music will include the evening canticles in A-flat by Sarah MacDonald, Preces and Responses by Robert J. Powell, and the anthems PEACE I LEAVE YOU by Amy Beach, and DRAW US IN THE SPIRIT'S TETHER by Harold Friedell. The Rev. Kevin Barron 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. Our next evensong will be held October 6.

Youth Sunday

Sunday, May 21

During the 10 a.m. service in the Church



Our 10 a.m. service for Sunday, May 21, will be planned and led by youth from the recent confirmation class and upper levels of our church school. They will participate in all aspects of our worship from reading the lessons, to serving as acolytes and chalice bearers, to writing and preaching the sermon. We hope you will be there to participate in our worship, too.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Adult Forums in May

Adult Forums are held in Canterbury Hall. The programs begin promptly at 9 a.m.

Sunday, May 5

Philip Jenkins – From Resurrection to Pentecost: What Can We Know?

The New Testament offers various accounts of the events following the Crucifixion. How are we meant to read them? What can we know, and what can we believe?

Sunday, May 12

Tirzah Gibboney – How Neighboring Can End Family Homelessness

Director, Tirzah Gibboney explains how Bridge of Hope helps single moms maintain safe housing, get access to resources that meet their needs, take steps toward long-term stability, and build strong relationships within their community.

Sunday, May 19

Sarah Klinetob Lowe & Katie Ruth – Our Diocesan Climate Action Plan

Sarah Klinetob Low and Katie Ruth are co-writers of the Diocese of Central PA's Drafted Creation Care Plan, a response to the national church's [Resolution A087](#) which aims for net carbon neutrality of the Episcopal Church by 2030. Here is a link to the drafted Creation Care Plan: bit.ly/DraftCCPlan

Sunday, May 26 – TBA



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

NEWS FROM OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS



*Lord, grant us the wisdom to care for the earth.
Help us to act now for the good of future generations and for all your creatures.*

Thank you to Professor Michael Skvarla for being a guest speaker in our Church School class. Our children enjoyed learning about your work in Entomology and how climate change can be seen in the lives and behaviors of 'insects'.



Another Thank You for your donations for our Easter Egg Event!

Here are a few photos!



Teacher Appreciation Sunday

Sunday, May 21

During the 10 a.m. service in the Church

May is Teacher Appreciation Month!

**Month? We Love and Appreciate our teachers
ALL. YEAR. LONG. !!!**

This *IS* a special time to say “**Thank you, Teachers!**”

Lauren Cozad

Sarah Skvarla

Andrea McCloskey

Darlene Nordoff

Betsy Llewellyn

Marisa Ferger

Meira Minard

Kitty Mussett

Katie Gaines

Elizabeth Hughes

Livi (Olivia) Blake

Penelope McCloskey

Ellie Harper

Lori Pacchioli

Mary Beth Hoffman

Liz King

Dale Gericke



YOUTH PROGRAMS

Congratulations, Confirmands!

Bryson Christopher

Sean McGarry

Jeb Harper

Ellie Harper

Thank you to our Confirmation Leaders

We Appreciate your work with our Confirmation Class.

Christina Ford

Daniel Foster

Kelley Paulsen

Deborah Morton



Back Row: Christina Ford, Bryson Christopher, Sean McGarry, Jeb Harper

Front Row: Kelley Paulsen, Ellie Harper

Youth Game Night

Saturday, May 18
5 – 7 p.m. in Room 325

All youth in grades 3 – 8 are invited to an evening of games and pizza! (Your adults are welcome to stay, too, if they'd like.) Please let Heather know if you plan to attend by May 15 at hgregory1500@aol.com or by text to 814-386-8848.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Andrew's 2024 Poetry Contest

DEADLINE EXTENDED - SUBMISSIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH MAY 15!

For more information and submission details: artsat.standrewsc.org

St. Andrew's Poetry Contest 2024

In the gospel according to Luke, a lawyer challenges Jesus to clarify the law "[You shall love] your neighbor as yourself" by asking

AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Jesus replies with a story, the Parable of the Good Samaritan.
We invite you to respond with a poem.

NEW Submission Deadline

May 15, 2024

Prizes

First Prize	\$250
Second Prize	\$100
Bishop's Choice	\$ 50

Submission details at artsat.standrewsc.org



There is still time to enter!

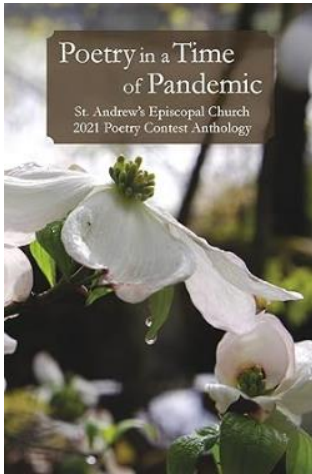
Please help spread the word by sharing this information.

In today's world, where we are interconnected by accessible technology but deeply divided by issues of prejudice, competition for resources, power differentials, and strong differences of opinion and belief, how do *we* answer this question? Who is *our* neighbor and what does it mean to love them as ourselves?

These are the questions and issues we are asking writers of any age, background, or faith to address in their submissions to this year's poetry contest. We invite you to send us your responses and share this information with any individuals or groups that may be interested.

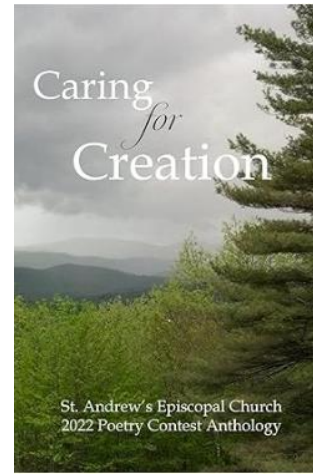
We will publish winning and other selected poems in a contest anthology and the poets invited to participate in a poetry reading during the Arts Festival this summer on Saturday, July 13 at St. Andrew's. Please visit our Arts Blog (see address above) for more information and poems from previous contests.

Previous contest anthologies can be purchased online at Amazon.com. Copies of Caring for Creation are also available in the church office.



Poetry in a Time of Pandemic (2021)

<https://a.co/d/cAK3z9j>



Caring for Creation (2022)

<https://a.co/d/0AqArYH>

St. Andrew's Gardeners

Volunteers needed.

If you are someone who enjoys spending time among the plants, please consider joining our gardeners. We need additional volunteers to weed and water the big flower bed in front of St. Andrew's for one or more weeks during the summer.

You can find the signup sheet at this link:

<https://bit.ly/StAndrewsGardeners2024>.

If you have questions or need more detailed information, please contact Betsy Llewellyn at gericke41@aol.com.



UPCOMING



Sunday, May 26 – following 10 a.m. service
On the Front Lawn

Bikes (and bikers) of every kind are welcome – bicycles, tricycles, motorcycles – all will be blessed on the front lawn following our 10 a.m. service. The blessing will be followed by a lap around the church block for those who wish to participate and refreshments.

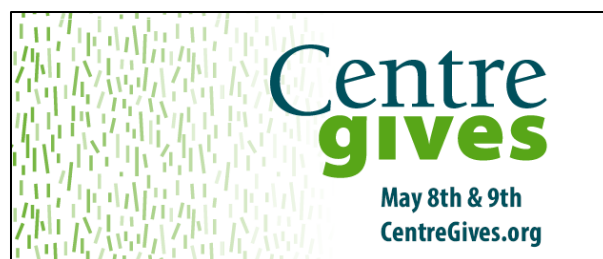
Bring your bike and bring a friend!

Centre Gives

Wednesday, May 8, at 8 a.m. to

Thursday, May 9, at 8 p.m.

Online at centregives.org



Community Café

Power Hour: 5-6 p.m., Thursday, May 9

<https://centregives.org/organizations/219-community-cafe-at-st-andrew-s>

For the 5th year in a row, the Community Café at St. Andrew’s will participate in **Centre Gives**, a 36-hour online giving event where the money you donate to your favorite charities will go further because of their stretch pool and the prizes that each individual charity can win. If you are completely new to our community’s Centre Gives online fundraising event, you can learn more here... <https://centregives.org/>.

Once the campaign begins at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 8, the donation links will become active. You can go directly to the Community Café page or use the main Centre Gives page (see above) and search for “Community Café” or scroll through the list to see all of the participating organizations.

By donating during their chosen **“Power Hour,” Thursday, May 9, from 5 – 6 p.m.**, when we, as we are every Thursday evening at 5 p.m., serving meals at St. Andrews, you can help the Café win a \$500 prize. It’s a perfect way to honor our ministry and help a great cause. The prize is awarded based on unique givers, not the amount pledged. Please consider a gift of \$10 or more (and remember that each person in your household can give individually and that can increase our chances of winning this Power Hour!) Thanks!

Interfaith Human Services

<https://centregives.org/organizations/52-interfaith-human-services>

There are many deserving organizations participating in Centre Gives. After you make your donation to the Community Café, please consider supporting Interfaith Human Services (IHS), a collaboration of 30 congregations in Centre County, PA, including St. Andrew’s, who provide programs and services to low-income families in our neighborhoods.

Use the link above for IHS or use the main Centre Gives page (see above) and search for “Interfaith Human Services” to donate.



IN THE COMMUNITY

Toot-in-Common Spring Concert

Monday, May 20

7:30 p.m. in the Church

On Monday evening, May 20, St. Andrew’s parishioner, Judy Moore, will lead Toot-in-Common, in an hour-long program featuring classical, popular, and contemporary works written or arranged for flute choir. and contemporary selections written just for flute choir. A reception will follow the performance. A goodwill offering will be accepted to help support the group. For more information, please contact Judy at flautodolce@comcast.net.



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

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Sunday, May 5, and May 19,
11:45 a.m. in Room 119

The Daughters of the King will hold two Sunday meetings in May, on May 5 and May 19.

COMPASSIONATE LIFE

Tuesday, May 7, and May 21,
9:30 a.m. in Room 325

The women of Compassionate Life met every first and third Thursday. We love God and each other; and we pray for each other, our church family, our community, and the world. We discuss and reflect together, often using literature as our springboards; we laugh and cry together; we participate in actions of compassion; we learn from guest speakers and from a field trip or two.

If you need transportation to and from meetings, please contact Laurel Zydney (our meeting leader) or Darlene Nordoff (communications). Please feel free to join the group at any time. We welcome and love new members!

KNITTING MINISTRY

Sunday, May 19, 11:15 a.m.
Room 324 and Zoom

Knitting Ministry will meet on Sunday, May 19, following the 10 a.m. service. Join us in Room 324 or 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.

For more information contact Anne Hoag,

anne.hoag@gmail.com

MEN'S GROUP

Tuesday, May 21
Room 324

The St. Andrew's Men's Group had another successful meeting in April, with much thanks to Rich Marini's manicotti. In addition to eating, the group continued to share their perspectives on Genesis (Chapter 2) and the differences in the creation stories, among other topics. We'll continue our discussions with Chapter 3 in May.

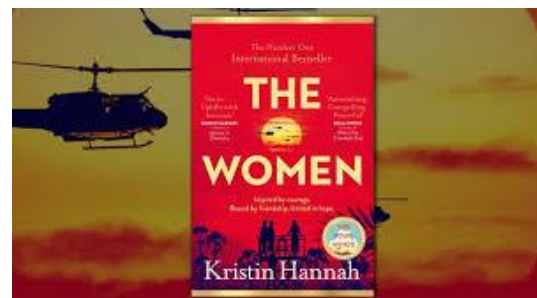
The group's next meeting will be Tuesday, May 21 in Room 324. We gather at 5:30 p.m. for food and some fellowship, and the reflection on the Bible doesn't begin until about 6 p.m. Feel free to come join us when you can make it. All men of St. Andrew are welcome.

Questions or requests for more information can be sent to Dennis Shea (dennisgshea@yahoo.com or 814-777-8086).

BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, May 21
7 p.m., Room 324 (Library)

The St. Andrew's Book Group will meet Tuesday, May 21, at 7 p.m. in Room 324 to discuss Kristin Hannah's new book, *The Women*. The story follows a group of female combat nurses during the Vietnam War and after their return home. Newcomers and guests are always welcome.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Greg Paulsen	13 Mavis Stapleford	21 Judy Mitchell
4 Greg Ruberto	13 Heather Gregory	21 David Packard
8 Kevin Lowe	14 Jenna Ruberto	22 Marcia Saiers
8 Caroline Shea	14 Carol Eidsvoog-Spencer	23 Fran Budris
9 Mike Mussett	14 Janet Engeman	24 Leah Patzkowsky
9 Elliot Johnson-Pritchett	14 Gretchen Heim	25 Lydia Lunnen
9 David Gericke	16 Carol McKeever	25 Stephanie Bunt
10 Kevin McGarry	17 Caitlin Osborne	26 Robin Tate
10 James LeBreton	17 Marc Rigas	27 John deCarle
11 George Chisholm	17 Genevieve Potts	27 Rick Hoover
11 Sarah Klinetob Lowe	18 Christie Orr	27 Michael Skvarla
13 Greg Lovisky	19 Dawn Ziegerer	29 Todd King
13 Molly Wells	20 JudithAnn Rule	30 Barb Downs

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If you have a May 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, Joe, Erica, Molly, Walter, Marion, Sandy, Teri, Janet, Mavis, Mena, Joan, Don, Jordan, Ty, Isa, Ivonne, Beti, Kevin, Vicki, Diane, Sara, Emily, Frank, Robbie, Andy, Terry, Carol, Pam, Parker, Bob, Shawn, Holly, Shirley, Miles, Doug, Victor, Magen, Tim, Leslie, Linda, Josh, Kaethe, Annaliese, Maria, Shep, Emerald

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

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

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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