

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 2024**

## The Paradox of Hope

Advent begins with a paradox. It is about the beginning, but it begins with the end. Our lectionary readings speak of ‘wars and rumors of wars’ as we approach this season. It all puts us in mind of the world’s end. It all makes us feel frightened, and vulnerable, and dependent on God’s grace. Then we move into predictions of Jesus’ coming. His birth is announced by an angel, this great and terrible Son of God and Son of Man. When he finally arrives, his birth may seem a little anticlimactic. Born of poor parents on a dark and cold night in the most humble of surroundings, can this really be our King? Is this really the one on whom we place all our hopes?

That paradox, of course, follows through Jesus’ life and ministry, his passion and death too. The crucified one is our savior. How crazy is that? He came to give us life abundant, but he suffers and dies on the cross. We know the rest of the story. We know that death is not the end. In fact, Jesus’ resurrection is the basis of our hope for eternal life. Following him can create some paradoxes as well. We serve our God by serving others. We are blessed when we let go of concern for ourselves. To become rich when we give away our wealth. Dying we live.

Our faith is full of head scratchers.

One of the most confounding things, and one of the strong themes of Advent, is hope. Hope is the expectation of good things even in the face of facts that would indicate the opposite. Hope gives us a sense of well-being and peace, even as we feel the negative effects of life’s assaults. Far from being a denial of reality, hope keeps us grounded in this life, but it frees us from relying on the visible or the material for our comfort or our happiness. Hope sees beyond the present moment. It sees a greater arc of human history, one where God is in charge, present, and directing our story towards a good end.

As Christians, we are people of hope, called to live in hope. Living in hope does not free us from being sad, depressed, disappointed, afraid, or even despondent. However, hope can be our companion along with these emotions. If it is, it protects us from the worst of our negative internal states. Needless to say, there is nothing particularly logical about hope. It is something we choose and cling to tenaciously. It can only be born of faith in a God who loves us and wills the best for us, both as individuals and as a whole people. Hope’s foundation is in the belief that God created the creation good, and that goodness is still God’s wish, God’s dream for this creation. It cannot be sustained by a belief in our own goodness or capacity to do good, nor in the expectation of other fallible people to be or do good. But hope does move us toward goodness. It encourages us to put goodness into the world. By doing this, we may spark goodness in someone else, even in some small way. Hope can, does, and should beget hope.

As we enter Advent and the sun’s light fades away, we see the light of Christ just on the horizon, just about to dawn. Let that light be your comfort, your joy, and your hope. Let that light shine in and through you.

Fr. Jeff+



## TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer

October 2024

	October	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2024 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 40,133	\$ 401,036	93%	\$ 432,500
Total Operating Income	\$ 43,519	\$ 429,917	93%	\$ 464,100
Total Operating Expense	\$ 44,277	\$ 446,227	80%	\$ 555,264
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (758)	\$ (16,311)		

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

## VESTRY UPDATE, Beth Jones, Clerk of the Vestry

November 2024

The vestry met on November 12 in room 324. Two items were approved quickly: 1) Karen Earl was approved to serve on the Community Café's Board of Directors. 2) The vestry approved our commitment to the Diocesan Fair Share budget for 2025.

The Sabbatical Committee (overseeing arrangements for Fr. Jeff's sabbatical) presented their report at the October meeting for the vestry members to read and ask questions. The recommendations and plan were approved unanimously by the vestry at this meeting.

A preliminary budget estimate for St. Andrew's was drawn up by the Finance Committee and presented to the vestry in October for their consideration. There was much discussion about which ministries should be added back into the budget and how to fund them: ministries which reflect St Andrew's core values. A list of ministries and dollar amounts were approved.

The next vestry meeting is on Dec.10 at 7 p.m. in room 324. All are welcome.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Parish Annual Meeting**

Sunday, January 26, 2024  
Following 10 o'clock service

More information to follow

# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



## Taizé Prayer Services

Wednesdays December 4, 11, and 18

5:45 p.m. in the church

## First Sunday in Advent – December 1

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Church School

11:15 a.m. **Celebration of St. Andrew's Day** during Coffee Hour

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

## Second Sunday in Advent – December 8

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Church School

**Visit from St. Nicholas**

**Presentation of Toys for Tots donations**

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

## Third Sunday in Advent – December 15

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

5 p.m. **Service of Lessons and Carols** (No 5 p.m. eucharist)

Nursery open for family use (unattended)

**Reception** in Canterbury Hall following the service

## Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 22

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Church School

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

## Christmas Eve, December 24

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. **Solemn High Mass**, Holy Eucharist: Rite I

## Christmas Day, December 25

No services



## A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Sunday, December 15

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

Nursery open for family use (unattended)

Reception following in Canterbury Hall



The annual Festival of Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, December 15, 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 by members of St. Andrew's and invited guests from the State College community are followed by carols and anthems from the choirs and carols sung by the congregation.

Our own St. Andrew's tradition, a festive reception hosted by Parish Life, will be held in Canterbury Hall following the service. Here are three ways you can help:

- 🌲 You can contribute by donating food or money for the reception, or by signing up to set up or clean up. Click [HERE](https://bit.ly/2024LessonsandCarols) (bit.ly/2024LessonsandCarols) to see what is needed and to sign up or contact Darlene Nordoff.
- 🌲 If you have a green artificial or real tree that you can loan (tabletop to about six feet, pre-lit or not,) you can help transform Canterbury Hall into a Narnia Forest. Battery-operated twinkle lights would also be appreciated. Please text Darlene at (814)-883-1231 to let her know what you can share and arrange a drop off at the church. Trees are needed by Friday, December 13, or Saturday, December 14.
- 🌲 Parish Life will also be making three kinds of paper snowflakes to help decorate Canterbury Hall. They will meet on Saturday, December 7, from 10 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. in Room 325 and could use some extra crafters. If you would like to help, please contact Darlene Nordoff. If you have a hot glue gun, glue sticks, white paper lunch bags, or white doilies, please bring them.

## MUSIC AT ST. ANDREW'S

### MEET YOUR CHOIR

You see them every Sunday. It is time to learn more about the members of the choir at St. Andrew's.

#### Anne Thomas

I cannot remember not singing. My mom started me on piano when I was three – she couldn't keep me away – quickly followed by some of the first Suzuki violin lessons available on the East Coast. I grew up thinking I'd be a violinist but sang in some truly fine church and school choirs where I was assigned inner parts. One summer at Interlochen I opened my mouth and had a vibrato and high notes – the rest is history.

A bit later in life I attached my star to Scott's (and the US Navy's) and moved with him in and out of Europe and the Middle East. We have two adult children, who are also degreed singers, heaven help them.

I've found community and chosen family in our choir and am consistently amazed at the high performance standard Walter and Gwen manage to extract out of our motley crew of mostly untrained voices. Choir is the team sport we can all play irrespective of physical limitations.



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### News from our CHILDREN and YOUTH PROGRAMS

#### Volunteers Needed in our Classrooms:

We are looking for volunteers to help **once** a month in either of our two classes: Godly Play or Church School. Children and teachers return to the service after class for communion. No experience is needed to help. Two adults are required in our classrooms.



#### If you are willing to help, here is what you need to know:

The diocese requires that church volunteers who work with children get background clearances every five years. This is in addition to Safe Church training.

You can read the diocesan policies here: <https://diocesecpa.org/diocpapolityandbackgroundchecks/>

- **Rich Marini, rpm12@psu.edu**, is our **Safe Church administrator**. Safe Church is an online curriculum that you complete at your convenience. Contact Rich when you are ready to complete Safe Church. He will let you know what you need to do.
- **Julie Kwasnica, treasurer@standrewsc.org**, keeps all of the **records of our clearances**. Please contact Julie to find out about the three clearances you will need to complete.



**A huge Thank You to all of our volunteers. We couldn't have our programs without you!**

If you have any questions, please contact: Robin [children@standrewsc.org](mailto:children@standrewsc.org)

## Our Classes meet during the 10 am service.

**Godly Play**, ages 3 to 8, meet in Room 338

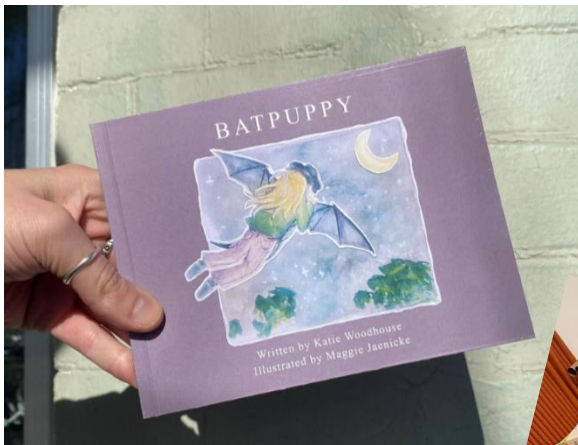
**Church School**, ages 9 to 14, meet in Room 330 at the end of the hallway!

Teachers greet our children in the hallway to make sure that they can find their room! Please email Robin with with any questions. [children@standrewsc.org](mailto:children@standrewsc.org)



## Illustrator Visit

Our children enjoyed a visit from Maggie Jaenicke on November 24. Maggie and author Katie Woodhouse, released their book, *Batpuppy*, this year. We are huge fans of *Batpuppy*! The children were able to hear the story and ask questions about the book and illustrations. Maggie stayed to create some art with us. Thank you to Maggie and editor Alison Jaenicke for visiting our class! You can get your own copy of *Batpuppy* at <https://www.etsy.com/shop/MississippiMossShop>



# The Feast of St. Nicholas And Toys for Tots!



**St. Nicholas will visit us on December 8.**

**Please bring new, unopened gifts to donate to children and teens in need.**

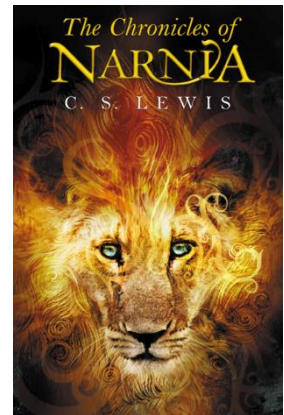
St. Nicholas will be here to visit with our children and help us to take out gifts to the altar to be blessed.



## 'We will be celebrating Advent in Narnia! December 1 - December 24

*"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." ~John 1:5*

We will read age-appropriate versions of The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe in our two classes. The story follows four children as they discover the magical world of Narnia through their wardrobe.



**For our families:**



### **Mark your calendars for Movie Night!**

We will gather with others from the congregation as Friday Films presents the movie Chronicles of Narnia, The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe on Friday, December 13 at 7 p.m. in Canterbury Hall. Children (and adults!) are welcome to wear their pjs to the movie.

Please sign up at this [LINK](#) if you and your children plan to come.

# Christmas Eve

Our family Christmas service will be at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, December 24.

Our children and youth will be helping to tell The Christmas Story.

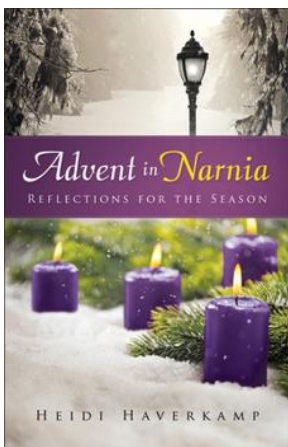


Please contact our teachers at: [children@standrewsc.org](mailto:children@standrewsc.org) if your children or teens will be here on Christmas Eve and would like to play a part!

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## Adult Forum: Advent in Narnia

Sundays in December beginning Sunday, December 1  
9 – 9:45 a.m.  
Canterbury Hall



This Advent Adult Forum will discuss C.S. Lewis and how his book *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe* evokes images of Christ in all. We will use *Advent in Narnia* by Heidi Haverkamp as a study guide. *Advent in Narnia* connects the weeks in Advent to particular stories and chapters in TLTW&TW, so you might want to have a copy of that book handy to follow along.

Adult Forum meets in Canterbury Hall and the program begins promptly at 9 a.m.



## OUTREACH

### Interfaith Human Services Bell Ringing

#### Interfaith Human Services Bell Ringing

December 13, 18, and 19

West College Avenue 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.

St. Andrew's has volunteered for Saturday December 13 and 19 at Meyer Dairy and December 18 at the Waffle Shop on West College Ave. Work together with an old friend or a new acquaintance! Please use the links below to see available times and to sign up for one or more slots. Reserve your time NOW!

If you have any questions, please email Marion Schwartz at [kmarsch09@gmail.com](mailto: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 13 (Meyer Dairy)**

**December 18 (Waffle Shop)**

**December 19 (Meyer Dairy)**



### Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, December 27

10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Canterbury Hall

This holiday season, give the gift of life.

Schedule your appointment today

**Online** at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter StAndrewsEC

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



## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

### Advent Taizé Services

Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18

5:45 p.m. in the Church



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

Friday, December 13  
6:30 p.m., snacks  
7 p.m., Movie starts  
Canterbury Hall

### The Chronicles of **NARNIA**

#### The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

2005, Rated PG

2 h 30 m



This Advent, Friday Films will present *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Based on the book by C. S. Lewis, the movie is the story of four English siblings sent to live in a country house During World War II for safety. One day Lucy, the youngest, finds a wardrobe that transports her to a magical world. Her siblings do not believe her at first, but eventually they all travel through the wardrobe to Narnia where they become involved in a battle between the lion Aslan and the evil White Witch.

Due to the season and the running time, feel free to come in your Christmas pajamas and sweaters. The film is free and all are welcome.

If you have any questions, please contact Sharon Rovansek at [srovansek@comcast](mailto:srovansek@comcast).

## Toot-in-Common Concert

Saturday, December 7  
2 p.m. in the Church



Toot-in-Common will present a concert of seasonal music on December 7 at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's. This is a change in time and date from our usual concerts. The concert will last about one hour with a reception following.

## 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 8  
11:15 a.m., Room 324 and on Zoom

The mission of the Knitting Ministry is fellowship and prayerful/mindful making with our hands for others. We are knitters and crocheters with a connection to the Centre Region and/or to St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of State College, PA.

The next meeting will be January 12, 2025! To join our email list, or for more information contact Anne Hoag, [anne.hoag@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hoag@gmail.com).

### COMPASSIONATE LIFE

Thursdays, December 5 and December 19,  
9:30 a.m., Room 324

Compassionate Life will meet twice in December. On Thursday, December 5, we'll be putting together gift bags for Park Forest Preschool and possibly make a few snowflakes for the reception after the Service of Lessons and Carols, if we have time. On December 19, we'll host our traditional White Elephant Gift Exchange and enjoy yummy treats. More info to come!

### MEN'S GROUP

Usually the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month  
5:30 p.m., Room 324

The Men's Group will NOT meet in December.  
Merry Christmas!

### BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, December 17  
7 p.m., Room 324

For the December meeting, the Book Group will read and discuss O. Henry's short story, *The Gift of the Magi*. To celebrate the season, we will also have a book swap and refreshments. If you would like to participate, please bring a used, wrapped book (not one of the previous Book Group picks) and a snack to share. Or just bring yourself. We will have some extra books and plenty of treats.

Newcomers and visitors are always welcome.



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

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

As a thank offering for \_\_\_\_\_



Amount \_\_\_\_\_

## 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	8 Frank Vergamini	20 Bruce Cramer
3 Jeffrey Kern	8 Jerrilyn Muth-Kern	22 Shane Markowski
4 Andy Stephenson	12 Kitty Mussett	22 Mimi Reed
4 Medora Ebersole	14 Katie Mussett	23 Pete Arnett
4 Edward Brown	14 Sandy Schwartz	23 Jennifer Irvin
4 Lois Murphy	16 James Harper	25 Jesus
7 Bill Donovan	17 Rebekah Dawson-Rigas	27 Vaun Skvarla
7 Denny Houseman	17 Abigail Skvarla	



### **Those for Whom We Pray**

Sandy, Joe, Erica, Molly, Walter, Marion, Teri, Janet, Mavis, Mena, Mickey, Pam, Joan, Don, Jordan, Ty, Isa, Ivonne, Zarah, Eugene, Kevin, Vicki, Diane, Sara, Emily, David, Frank, Robbie, Andy, Terry, Brian, Ed, Mary Lou, Sheralee, Elisabeth, Bryan, Michael, Anne, Uncle Will, Robert, Bob, Barbara, Leonora, Wanda, Ron, Mona, Jeremy, Susan, Evelyn, Marj, Paula, Leta, Bill, Finn, Earl, Dave, Elle, Roger, Maria, Kaethe, Annaliese, Barbara, Andrew, Jean, Doug, George, Bernie, Garrison, Linda, Betty, Mark, Josh, Aran, Christina, Nathan, Miles, Micaela, Chris, Shawn, Connie, Gloria, Jane, Stephen

### **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**

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