

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

March 2025

Lenten Discipleship

We often talk about Lenten disciplines, things we do during Lent, or refrain from doing. This year I want to talk about Lenten discipleship. As we enter the holy season of Lent when we typically reflect on our own need for repentance and God's grace, I wonder how we would each answer this question: What does it mean to be a disciple of Jesus Christ right now? Put another way: How am I to proclaim the Gospel in this moment?

The past month or so has been shocking. Executive orders being issued by our president, aggressive efforts to deport people, massive stoppages of federal funding for everything from foreign aid to research support, and whiplash-inducing changes in policies both foreign and domestic, leave us wondering what does this all mean, or asking ourselves what's next?

Whether you are a supporter of the president or not, whether you are a Republican, Democrat, or something else, we are all living in times that are chaotic, confusing, and anxiety producing. The pace of changes being made in our government, then things being walked back or put on hold by a judge, then new things being done or old things being undone, is dizzying. It is disorienting. How do we respond as faithful Christians?

How do we seek to be faithful followers of a Lord who aligned himself with the weak, the outcast, the sinner, the sick, the foreigner, and the poor? How do we stand for justice while walking with humility? How do we seek God's dream of beloved community? How do we embody the love that we see most purely in our Lord Jesus Christ?

Of course, everyone will answer these questions differently. I wish I had the answers myself. I continue to struggle and search. But two things seem clear to me. First, we as the Church need to be engaged with the world. Not that we should become a bastion of partisan politics, but that we should not be afraid to discuss things that seem political, things that have far reaching effects not just on people in this country but around the world. Second, as we engage around matters of current events and public policy, we should do so remembering that we are all members of Christ's Body, and as such we are members of one another. Speaking the truth in love is a real challenge. Love must come first, last, and all through such truth speaking.

This Lent I challenge us all to seek, both personally and as a congregation, to discern what it means to be a disciple of Christ in these times in which we live. If Christ is our common goal, we may not agree on everything, but we can continue to seek him together.

Fr. Jeff+



January 2025

	January	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2025 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 79,241	\$ 79,241	18%	\$ 443,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 87,516	\$ 87,516	18%	\$ 496,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 52,539	\$ 52,539	9%	\$ 580,022
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 34,976	\$ 34,976		

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



February 2025

The vestry met on February 11, 2025. It was the first meeting of new vestry members . Fr. Jeff gave an orientation on the roles of the rector, the senior warden and the junior warden and responsibilities of the vestry. The treasurer gave an overview of the investments, the savings and the income/expense reports seen by the vestry each month.

Sandy Schwartz was appointed to be senior warden, and Andrea McCloskey was chosen by the vestry to be the junior warden. The chairs for eight parish committees were approved. Liaisons to the various parish ministries were also appointed.

Although the vestry retreat was planned for Feb. 22, it needed to be cancelled due to illness. New date and venue TBD.

The March vestry meeting was held on March 11 at 7:00 p.m. in room 324. An update will be included in the April newsletter. The April vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 8. All are welcome.

2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

NOTE: In accordance with our bylaws, we are publishing the minutes from the Annual Meeting held on January 26, 2025. (See below.) These minutes were approved by the Vestry at their February meeting under a special rule of order adopted in 2024. This rule specifies that the Vestry will serve as a special committee to review and approve the minutes from the Annual Meeting in a timely manner rather than wait until the next year’s Annual Meeting.

Minutes from January 26, 2025 Annual Meeting

January 26, 2025

Father Jeff Packard **called the meeting to order** and lead an opening prayer at 11:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 26, in the church sanctuary. A quorum was noted with 49+ members in attendance. Without objections, Father Jeff **appointed Beth Jones as Secretary of the 2025 Annual Meeting.**

The membership was referred to the meeting minutes from the 2024 Annual meeting. It was noted that by motion at that meeting a special minutes committee was appointed who reviewed the minutes in a timely manner and approved them in March 2024. The membership was also reminded that the Vestry adopted a special rule of order that the Vestry would serve as a special minutes approval committee going forward.

Father Jeff recognized the **Outgoing Vestry Members** for their service:

- Julie Breuninger (senior warden),
- Carolyn Donaldson,
- Sarah Klinetob Lowe,
- Fran Stevenson

Father Jeff led the **Vestry Election**. Four eligible candidates were presented for four open positions, each with a three-year term. The slate of candidates was adopted by a unanimous vote. The commissioning of new members will occur on February 16 at their appropriate service:

- Cathy Dauler,
- Pam Ferguson,
- Alison Jaenicke,
- Karl Zimmerer

The next item of **Election of Diocesan Convention Delegates (5) & Alternates (2)** was elected by unanimous vote to a *one-year term*. It should be noted that St. Andrew's went from six delegates to five due to parish size.

DELEGATES:

- Anthony Grillo
- Carolee Grillo
- Michele Marini
- Rich Marini
- Kelley Paulsen'

ALTERNATES

- Paul Hochreiter
- Allison Shea

Father Jeff introduced the **Continuing Vestry Members**

- ('26) Kathy Dittmann, Daniel Foster, Rich Marini, Sanford Schwartz (junior warden)
- ('27) Candace Davison, Katie Gaines, Anthony Grillo, Andrea McCloskey

Father Jeff **announced Parishioners' Ministry Stewards**, Each steward serves for two months each year.

- Chief Steward—Steven Smith Treasurer—Sandy Schwartz
- Stewards—Jerry Dittmann (new), Pam Ferguson, Ann Gibboney, Beth Jones (reappointed), Bob Jones

Father Jeff **announced the Community Café Board of Directors**. It should be noted that the Community Café Bylaws mandate that three members of the board must be church members.

- Exec. Dir.—Ron Rovanseck,
- Chair—Ted Jaenicke,
- Secretary—Andrea de Carle,
- Members: Carolyn Donaldson, Karen Earl, Pam Ferguson

The Finance Committee Chair, Linda Mace, presented the **2025 Budget**.

- Linda began her presentation by stating that the financial position of the parish is strong; substantial endowments and no debt.
- In the development of the 2025 budget, vestry asked the Finance Committee to examine the possibility of increasing withdrawals from the General Endowment fund and the Brenneman fund. Since the suggested percentage increase had already been met with the Brenneman fund, it was applied only to the General Endowment. The result was another \$10,000.00 from the General Endowment.
- The vestry also voted to put several ministry funds back into the 2025 budget, in alignment with our Core Values: Parishioners' Ministry, Newcomers, Outreach, two music funds.

Julie Breuninger presented her **Senior Warden Remarks**.

- The primary focus was on the work done by the vestry on Strategic Planning with the Vandersall Collective. It resulted in the establishment of our four Core Values and the strategic filter to use as our guide. The strategic filter has already been applied by the vestry to some decision-making. It will be rolled out to the parish at large over the next year.

Father Jeff presented the annual **Rector's Address**. This report can be found in Appendix A of these minutes.

Seeing no further business, Fr. Jeff provided the **Blessing** and declared the meeting **adjourned** at 1:15 p.m.

- submitted by Beth Jones, Clerk

2025 St. Andrews Annual Meeting (January 26th) Registered Attendees

Joan Bouchard	Elisabeth Edmonston	Kathryn MacIntosh	Sanford Schwartz
Jamie Breuninger	Marisa Ferger	Claire Mammoser	Marion Schwartz
Julie Breuninger	Pam Ferguson	Rich Marini	Michael Skvarla
Ted Christopher	Priya Fernando	Michele Marini	Sarah Skvarla
Cathy Dauler	Daniel Foster	Andrea McCloskey	Steven Smith
Tom Dauler	Melanie Miller	Jason McCloskey	Teri Smith
Ken Davis	Foster	Kitty Mussett	Anne Thomas
Andrea de Carle	Katie Gaines	Lori Pacchioli	Esther Wall
John de Carle	Marsha Haack	Dave Pacchioli	Sonya Woods
Jerry Dittmann	Alison Jaenicke	Aaron Packard	Stephen Woods
Kathy Dittmann	Beth Jones	David Packard	Karl Zimmerer
Carolyn Donaldson	Wilhelmina Jones	Jeffrey Packard	
Medora Ebersole	Linda Mace	Sian Packard	

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](#).

TED Talk

Choral Scholars, Compline, Celebrations, and Confirmation



It has been a cold beginning to the year, but the Choral Scholars of Episcopal at Penn State have been busy preparing for a service of Compline in the Worship Hall of the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center that was held on Ash Wednesday, and a service of Tenebrae at to be held St. Andrew’s on Wednesday night of Holy Week. In addition to that, the group participated in the Celebration of New Ministry service for me and the Rev. Rob Jones at St. John’s, Huntingdon.

In addition to this good work, two members of the campus ministry who do NOT sing are helping me out with our combined Confirmation Classes at St. Andrew’s – which includes young people from three different churches! It is great having them involved in this way, along with some other youth mentors from St. John’s Bellefonte as well as our own Kelley Paulsen.

Spring will come soon, but in the meanwhile, enjoy this link to a [service of Compline](#) which the Choral Scholars offered last October in the Worship Hall in Pasquerilla!

Ted+



Tenebrae at St. Andrew’s, 2024



The people of St. John’s, Huntingdon celebrated the new ministry of Ted Christopher as their quarter-time Priest-in-Charge on February 21. (R-L: Kevin Barron, Rob Jones, the Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan, Ted!).

WORSHIP

Evensong

Sunday, March 3

5 p.m., Church

Reception following, Room 325

NEXT EVENSONG: Sunday, April 6, 5 p.m.



On Sunday, March 3, the Adult Choir presented a service of choral evensong. Music included the evening canticles in C by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Preces and Responses by Richard Shephard, and the anthems PURGE ME, O LORD by Thomas Tallis, and THE HEAVENLY WORD by June Nixon. The Rev. Ted Christopher was the officiant. Organist Gwen Catchen played music by Johann Pachelbel and others.

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.

The next Evensong will be Sunday, April 6, at 5 p.m. with a reception following.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Sarah Skvarla, Interim Director

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

Many Thanks to DOK!

Thank you to The Daughters of the King who will be making new Wiggle Bags to replace the ones that mysteriously disappeared! Wiggle Bags are filled with books and stuffies for children to enjoy during the service. Please remember to return them after the service! Thank you!



Adult Education

Sundays in Canterbury Hall
Presentations begin promptly at 9 a.m.

Sunday, March 2

How Samuel Seabury Invented the Episcopal Church
presented by Philip Jenkins

Sunday, March 9

Observing Lent: Making Time for God
presented by Amy Pritchett

Sunday, March 16

Observing Lent: Fasting, Feasting, and Food Insecurity in the USA
presented by Amy Pritchett

Sunday, March 23

What Happens Next in the Vatican?
presented by Philip Jenkins

Sunday, March 30

No Forum currently scheduled

Sunday, April 6

Topic TBD
presented by Centre Peace

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sanctuary

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

4th Annual Poetry Contest

Coming this May



Poetry Contest 2025 "Sanctuary"

If you were wondering if we were going to have another poetry contest this year, wonder no longer.

Yes, we are doing a poetry contest again this year! We are just making one adjustment. We will have the poetry reading, at which we have as many of the winners as we can get plus selected poets reading their submissions, in the fall rather than during the Arts Festival. For mostly internal parish reasons, this timeline makes the most sense. It means that the period for submissions will be in the spring to summertime frame. By next month's newsletter, we hope to have all the dates for submissions and the reading event ready to publish.

For now, we have the theme. The theme of this year's poetry contest is "Sanctuary." Start working on your poetry.

LENT AT ST. ANDREW'S

Quiet Day

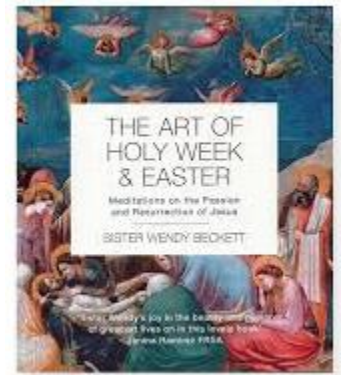
Saturday, March 22

10 a.m. until Noon in Canterbury Hall

St. Andrew's chapter of the Daughters of the King will host a Quiet Day on Saturday, March 22. The focus of the program will be *The Art of Holy Week and Easter* by Sister Wendy Beckett. This small, yet powerful, book depicts events leading up to the crucifixion and resurrection through art. It is available through Amazon, but you do not have to have the book to participate.

Throughout the morning, we will listen to chosen stories, view artistic images, and then spend some time in quiet meditation and contemplation. Guided questions will be offered to assist with our focus. Each segment will last no more than 45 minutes with time for biobreaks in between. Light snacks will be available.

All are welcome.



Taizé Prayer

Wednesdays in Lent

March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9

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.



Lenten Supper and Program

Wednesdays in Lent

March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9

Canterbury Hall

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

6:45 p.m. Program

The Lenten program will run on Wednesday evenings during lent, beginning after Spring Break. It will start with dinner (provided) at 6:00. There is no charge for dinner, but there will be a donation jar to help offset the expense. Once again, the good folks at Webster's Bookstore Café will feed us. Then the program will run from 6:45 to 8:00. Below are the dates and topics.

Jesus for Everyone

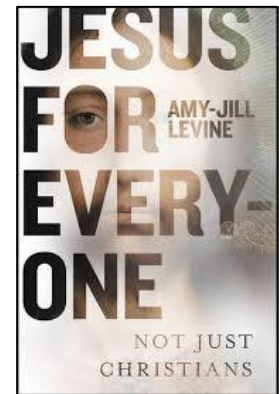
Jesus has a lot to say about politics, ethnicity and race, economics, and family values. Amy-Jill Levine, in her book *Jesus for Everyone: Not Just Christians*, explores just a few episodes from the Gospels for each of these topics. She tries to dispel long held anti-Jewish interpretations and gives us a strong historical perspective, then she delves into what Jesus said and did. Don't read this book for answers; it will leave you with more questions. We will take our lead from her and discuss these chapters in our Lenten program. You can read the book or not. It is not a prerequisite, but it may give you more information than we can cover in each session. The Rev. Kevin Barron is partnering with Fr. Jeff in presenting these topics.

March 19 "Politics"

March 26 "Ethnicity and Race"

April 2 "Economics"

April 9 "Family Values"



Stations of the Cross

Fridays in Lent

March 7, March 14, March 21, March 28, April 4, April 11

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)



Palm Folding

Saturday, April 12

10:00 a.m. in Room 325

Anyone in the congregation ages 9 to 101+ is invited to come fold Palms into crosses on Saturday, April 12, from 10 a.m. until Noon (unless finished earlier.) We will have instructions for folding, no prior experience needed. There will be refreshments!



HELP WANTED

✦ Gardeners Needed

Have you ever noticed how beautiful our flower beds and gardens are at St. Andrew's? Have you ever considered how this happens? The answer is a dedicated group of volunteers who have made it their ministry to take turns tending the gardens - watering, weeding, planting, trimming - whatever is needed. During the winter months, most of the plants are dormant and the gardeners get to take a break. Now, during Lent, the green blades are rising as they do each spring, and the work begins again.



If you are someone who enjoys spending time with your hands in the soil helping things grow, please consider joining our gardeners. We currently need additional volunteers to sign up for one or more weeks during the summer to weed and water the big flower bed in the front lawn of St. Andrew's. If you have questions or need more detailed information, please contact Betsy Llewellyn at gericke41@aol.com or Marisa Ferger at mferger@psu.edu. A Signup Genius will be available soon to schedule your shifts.

✦ Interfaith Human Services and Out of the Cold – Board members needed to represent St. Andrew's



There are two community-based organizations which St. Andrew's was part of getting started and on whose boards we have representation. They are Interfaith Human Services (IHS) and Out of the Cold Centre County (OOTC3).

- IHS has this description of what they do on their web site: "Serving low-income and financially vulnerable people in Centre County through diverse programs that foster financial stability." We have two seats on the board of IHS. Currently, we only have one representative. We would like to have a second person help represent us.
- OOTC operates the nearby overnight and day shelter. On their board we only have one seat. Our current representative would like to step down to allow someone else to do this work.

If you have any interest in either of these board positions or would like more information, contact Father Jeff. He can put you in touch with the people currently holding these positions.

✦ The Community Café is Seeking Help with Laundry

Do you want to help with the Community Cafe but can't commit to prepping and serving the meals? Do you enjoy doing laundry? Are you looking for a volunteer gig once every 6-8 weeks? Then consider joining the Community Cafe's Laundry Team! We're the ones responsible for washing, drying, and folding the aprons and towels after the Thursday night dinner.

If this sounds like something for you, or if you'd like more information, please contact Marisa Ferger at mferger@psu.edu.



St. Andrew's Yarn Ministry and Centre County Knitter's Guild

Saturday, April 5
9 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Room 325

Members of the St. Andrew's Yarn Ministry and the Centre County Knitter's Guild will be fighting food insecurity with their knitting needles all day, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., on Saturday, April 5, to raise money as part of the **Knit For Food Knit-a-Thon**. All money raised will be evenly split between No Kid Hungry, Meals on Wheels, World Central Kitchen, and Feeding America. Nationwide, the knitters of this fundraiser have earned over \$1.25 million to fight hunger in the US over the past 4 years! If you would like to add to this effort in 2025, you can do so by going to this link:

<https://givebutter.com/knitforfood25>

then

- Click the donate button at the top
- From the pull down menu select Centre County Knitters
- Then select one of our knitters

You are also invited to stop by room 325 on April 5 to cheer us on!

Holy Week at St. Andrew's



2025

CROSS FOLDING

Saturday, April 12

10 a.m. Palm Cross folding in Room 325

PALM SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II with procession from the corner of Fraser and Foster

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

MONDAY IN HOLY WEEK

April 15

7 p.m. Corporate Reading of the Gospel According to Luke
In the church

WEDNESDAY IN HOLY WEEK

April 16

7 p.m. Tenebrae Service presented by Episcopal at Penn State
In the church at St. Andrew's

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 17

7 p.m. Holy Eucharist

Washing of Feet, and Stripping of Altar

Sacred Watch at Gethsemane Garden Altar of Repose following
until midnight (in the church, in person)


GOOD FRIDAY

April 18

1 p.m. Ecumenical Stations of the Cross featuring
the choirs of Grace Lutheran and St. Andrew's Episcopal churches, at
Grace Lutheran

7 p.m. Liturgy of Good Friday

8 p.m. Good Friday Film: *TBD*
Canterbury Hall



Easter at St. Andrew's

2025

EASTER EVE

April 19

7:00 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter – bring a bell to ring!
Reception Following in Canterbury Hall

EASTER DAY

April 20

8:00 a.m. Festive Eucharist for Easter (no music)

9:30 a.m. Family Eucharist for Easter with Choir
Egg Hunt following
Nursery available

11:15 a.m. Festive Eucharist for Easter with Choir



MARCH BIRTHDAYS



1 Amy Allison
2 Michele Hamilton
3 David Rovansek
3 Michele Almeida
4 Kathy Dittmann
5 Janet Packard
5 Eddie Jones
6 Flora Eggert
7 Emily Paulsen
7 Hayley Couch
8 Liz Jenkins
9 John Harris

9 Pat Krall
10 Theresa Johnson-Pritchett
11 Jane Cawthern
11 Jane LaMar
12 Anne Thomas
13 Joe DeLauter
18 Karl Zimmerer
19 Carolee Grillo
20 Jerry Dittmann
20 Laura Potts
21 Geoff Cozine
21 Sandy DeLauter

21 Bob Jones
22 Eileen Weglarz
22 Vicky Ponish
23 Alexandra Couch
23 Townes Cozad
24 Darlene Nordoff
26 Marlee Kwasnica
28 Betha Christopher
28 Mena Jones
30 Mark Buzzell
31 Jeb Harper



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If you have a March 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, Teri, Janet, Mavis, Mena, Mickey, Bob, Ann, Pam, Joan, Jordan, Ty, Isa, Ivonne, Zarah, Halo, Eugene, Kevin, Vicki, Diane, Sara, Emily, David, Frank, Robbie, Earl, Andy, Terry, Ed, Mary Lou, Elisabeth, Alexandra, Isaac, Wilhelmina, Fran, Earl, Michael, Bryan, Robert, Anne, Sharree, Celia, Amy, Valerie, Victor, Patricia, Brad, Vern, Judy, Dave, Ashley, Claudia, Kate, Linda, Crystal, Dixie, Bill, Ellen, Olivia, Amelia, Chris, Rhonda, Amy, Aran, Paula

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

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

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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