

*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

**August 2025**

## **Extend Grace – No Matter What.**

A few Sunday mornings ago, we were visited by a small group of protesters outside our church. They shouted out slogans and quoted Bible verses (out of context, of course), the gist of which was that homosexuality is a sin and any church or individual which thinks otherwise is headed for the fires of eternal conscious torment. These protesters did not impede or obstruct access to the church, which would be illegal – but they came close. More to their point, they made some folks feel uncomfortable and unsafe walking through the front door – especially families with children, and members of the LGBTQ+ community coming to worship with us. I must confess that I took a little inappropriate satisfaction in the knowledge that their protest was encumbered by a providentially timed downpour about 5 minutes after Service began (Soli Deo Gloria).

Some may wonder, why do they bother our church? They bother us because we fly a Pride banner. They bother us because we are a church that affirms the God-giveness and God-giftedness of everyone, regardless of who they love or who they are (that includes the protestors, too!). They bother us because they have decided that God hates the people they hate, which is a grievous sin. It can be tempting to write these people off – to recoil from their bigotry and hatred with judgement and defensiveness of our own. Of course, this would make us the same as them. We must take the harder path – we must extend grace. This is not to say, for one second, that we would ever fail to assert the full humanity and full incorporation into the Body of Christ of LGBTQ+ people – God forbid! Extending grace to all, especially to those who do not do the same, does not condone the behavior. Extending grace is for the health of OUR souls, and OUR redemption. Extending grace is the root of Christian love. It is the discipline of our faith – a discipline because it is hard. But it is the work we are given to do.

Of course, in the end, our service a few weeks ago proceeded undisturbed. We gathered as we do each Sunday, hearing the Word of God, saying our prayers, confessing our sins, and most importantly, receiving the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. We did all this in a service presided over by a priest who we all love and who brings the integrity of his whole identity to his ministry in the church. Thanks be to God.

We live in such perilous times, exacerbated by a digital and political culture that thrives on division. The church must rise above it. The church – OUR church – must be a place where all are welcome. It breaks our hearts to think that for many in the world today, the church looks more like those protesters outside our doors a few weeks ago. We know that's not the truth, but we do have our work cut out for us. We will continue to witness to the love of Christ in the world. We will continue to seek and serve Him in all persons (even the protestors). We will continue to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being. We will do all this – and more... the hard work of the church, which extends grace, no matter what, to a broken and hurting world.

Fr. Ted +

## TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer



June 2025

	June	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2025 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 38,017	\$ 248,620	56%	\$ 443,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 40,048	\$ 276,299	56%	\$ 496,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 42,124	\$ 287,282	50%	\$ 580,022
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (2,076)	\$ (10,983)		

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

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



The vestry met on July 8, 2025, in room 324. Senior Warden Sandy Schwartz led the vestry in prayer to open the meeting.

The treasurer told the vestry that the income for June was pretty good, considering it is a summer month.

The Property Committee asked for approval for funds to update St. Andrew's fire security system. The vestry unanimously approved the expenditure.

The vestry unanimously approved the final version of St. Andrew's Bylaws.

Father Ted closed the meeting with a prayer and blessing.

There will be no vestry meeting in August. The next scheduled vestry meeting will be on Sept. 9, 2025, in room 324. All are welcome.

**Sanford Schwartz**, Senior Warden ([sanford.schwartz@gmail.com](mailto:sanford.schwartz@gmail.com)) and

**Andrea McCloskey**, Junior Warden ([avm11@psu.edu](mailto:avm11@psu.edu))

## Shabbat Fund

Thanks to the many parishioners who contributed to Fr. Jeff's sabbatical fund. Your additional support, which totaled \$5,900, is a generous expression of appreciation for his eight years of continuous service.

We trust that this period of rest, reflection, and renewal will bear fruit for him and his family, as well as for the parish which he continues to serve.

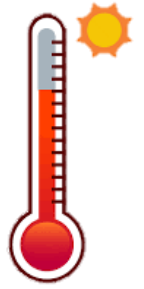


## WORSHIP

### Hot Weather Procedures for Worship

State College has experienced higher than usual temperatures recently and this will likely happen again over the summer, making temperatures in the church uncomfortable and possibly unsafe.

We will monitor the temperature forecasts each week and make the switch to Canterbury Hall for worship as necessary. This decision will be made by midday on Thursday. Please watch your email and our Facebook page for notifications.



Signs will be posted at both entrances to the church and in the building to direct worshipers. If you see a visitor, newcomer, or someone who looks confused, please help them find their way to Canterbury Hall.

Please dress for comfort and bring bottled water with you into the church during this hot weather.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### Summer Reminders from the CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

#### Volunteers Needed

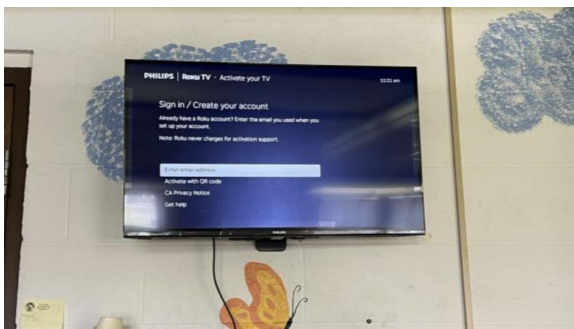
**The Children's Ministry needs teachers/helpers!**

If you like children and want to be a part of our ministry, **please** let us know! There are a few clearances you need, but it's an easy process and we can help you through it. We are starting class on **September 7**; there is time to join the team!

Contact Sarah Skvarla at [children@standrewsc.org](mailto:children@standrewsc.org) for more information.

#### Nursery

The nursery is open and available **every Sunday**. With the new Nursery TV, parents and volunteers will have access to the livestream of our 10 a.m. service. We hope that adding the TV makes parents feel welcome and **still a part of our community** while they are with their children in the nursery. Wiggle bags with books and stuffies are available in the narthex for Sunday mornings all year long.



#### Date Savers!

- August 24 will be the Blessing of the Backpacks and Devices - with Ice Cream on the Lawn! 🍦
- Kick off to the New Church School Year is September 7!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Our 2025 Poetry Contest** is underway! The contest is open to all and there is no entry fee. Winning poems and selected other submissions will be published in a contest anthology and poets will be invited to participate in a poetry reading here at St. Andrew's on October 25. Please consider entering and sharing your thoughts on our theme "Sanctuary." And help us spread the word!

More information and submission details can be found at [artsat.standrewsc.org](http://artsat.standrewsc.org) along with previous prize-winning entries.

## St. Andrew's Poetry Contest 2025

# SANCTUARY

Submissions on this year's theme, "Sanctuary," accepted

June 23 - August 29, 2025



Winning entries selected by

**The Rev. Dr. Vincent Joseph Kopp**

**First Prize \$250**

**Second Prize \$100**

**The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan**

**Bishop's Choice \$50**

**Submission details at [artsat.standrewsc.org](http://artsat.standrewsc.org)**

Poetry not your strong point? You can still be part of our contest! In addition to poems, **we are also seeking photos or artwork on the same theme.** No prizes will be awarded for these submissions, but they may be included in the anthology. You can find submission details at the website above. If you have any questions, please contact Allison in the office at 814-237-7659 or [office@standrewsc.org](mailto:office@standrewsc.org)

## Poetry Reading

Fall is a busy time in Happy Valley, but we have now scheduled our poetry reading for

**Saturday, October 25, at 2 p.m. here at St. Andrew's**

The event will include readings by award-winning poets and poets chosen for inclusion in our contest anthology. We will have copies of the anthology for sale and participating poets may also have copies of their publications available to purchase. Light refreshments will be served. Mark your calendars now!

## Judges

Our judge this year, the **Rev. Dr. Vincent Joseph Kopp**, entered our contest last year and has a poem in our anthology, *And Who Is My Neighbor?*. Dr. Kopp is a writer and poet who is also a medical doctor certified in pediatrics and anesthesiology and an Episcopal priest. His poems have appeared or are forthcoming in journals as varied as *Crescent Review*, *DoubleTake*, *The Journal of Medical Humanities*, *Southern Cultures*, *Anesthesia and Analgesia*, *Christian Century*, to name a few. As a faculty member at UNC Chapel Hill, he

taught a course called “Medical Ethics and Literature, “ was a Chapman Fellow at Institute for the Arts and Humanities and helped students start two other journals focused on medicine and the humanities, *iris* and *Health Humanities Journal*. After retiring from medicine in 2016, he was ordained in the Episcopal Church in 2018 and served in North Carolina parishes for five years, retiring in 2023. He now devotes time to gardening, publishing poems, and assembling two books of poems.

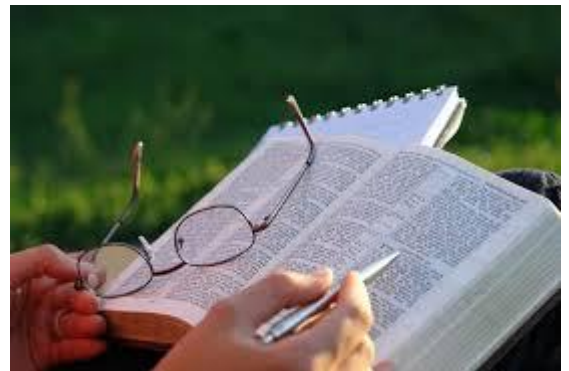
Our bishop, **The Rt. Rev. Audrey C. Scanlan**, was ordained and consecrated as the eleventh bishop of the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania in 2015. Audrey relocated from Connecticut where she serviced on the diocesan staff as Canon for Mission Collaboraton and Congregational Life. Before that, Audrey was the Rector of two yoked congregations in central Connecticut and two other local congregations in her ministerial life. She has a particular interest in congregational vitality, creative and adaptive use of church buildings, local mission, and community engagement. Audrey is the co-founder of Rhythms of Grace, a worship and formation program for children with special needs and holds a doctorate in the Theology of Disability. Audrey and her husband, Glenn, have been married since 1984 and are parents to three adult children – Emma, William, and Harriet. Hiking , cooking, running, and playing the cello are among Audrey’s hobbies. We are grateful that Audrey was able to work judging our contest this year into her challenging schedule.

### **Our One Word Alternative Bible Study**

August 6 and August 20

4:30 p.m., Room 325

Daughters of the King at St. Andrew’s is hosting an alternative kind of Bible study this summer. All are welcome to join us on Wednesday, August 6, and August 20, at 4:30 p.m. in room 325 to explore the secular to spiritual connection for everyday words.



Using a method from Martha Johnson Bourlakis’ book *Our One Word – Creating Spiritual Joy and Depth*, we will examine words like ‘faith,’ ‘trust,’ ‘strength,’ and ‘love’ and where they occur in scripture, in hymns, and in our personal encounters. At the August 6 session, Sian Packard will make the summary presentation on the word ‘**WISDOM**.’

No preparation is required, only a curiosity about the impact words have on us and our spiritual practices. Light snacks will be provided.

For additional information, please contact Michele Marini at 814-574-9639 or email Michele at [michelemarini@comcast.net](mailto:michelemarini@comcast.net).



### A Word from Parishioners' Ministry of Saint Andrew's

Summer often sees a lag in donations to churches, but it does not offer much relief for people in need, as evictions, power shutoffs, and job losses go on remorselessly. Parishioners' Ministry (along with the Community Café) is one of St. Andrew's main outreach programs, supplying direct financial aid to members of our community to assist with situations such as car repossession, repair bills, medical emergencies, rent and utility payments to name a few.

Most of Parishioners' Ministry's funds come from donations. Sometimes donations are generous, and we can say "yes" to needs totaling a thousand dollars or more each month. In those months, our job is easier! But, in the late summer and earliest fall....not so much.

Please consider a donation to this ministry, not to take it away from your pledge to St Andrew's general budget, which is vital; but whatever extra you can spare to help our neighbors in need.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** You can contribute to Parishioners' Ministry by

- Cash
- Check (designate PM in the memo line)
- Online at <https://onrealm.org/StAndrewsC/give/PM>

You do not have to have a Realm account to use this link. You can make a one-time donation or, as Steven suggests, can set up recurring payments to help provide a steady, predictable stream of income for PM.

(If you do have a Realm account, you can use the GIVE tab and select Parishioners' Ministry from the drop-down menu to make your donation.)

### INTERFAITH HUMAN SERVICES ONLINE AUCTION

Coming in September!

Donations due by August 29.



We're only a month away from Interfaith Human Services' Community Care Auction. How can you contribute? Gift cards are extremely popular. Cards for experiences like sports events, weekend getaways and restaurants receive the highest bids. PLEASE think about companies you frequent. Which ones would be good additions to the auction?

**FOR INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS ABOUT DONATING ITEMS**, email Curt at [director@interfaithhumanservices.org](mailto:director@interfaithhumanservices.org) OR call 814-234-7731. Items are due no later than Friday, August 29.

This year's auction will also feature a raffle with a first prize of \$1000. The goal is to raise an additional \$30,000 beyond the auction sales.

If you have questions, contact Marion Schwartz at [kmarsch09@gmail.com](mailto:kmarsch09@gmail.com). Or talk to Michele Hamilton or Connie Puckett, newly chosen to represent St. Andrew's on the IHS board of directors.

Thank you for contributing to the IHS mission at a time when working people are struggling to keep up.

## UPCOMING SUMMER CELEBRATIONS!



### St. Andrew's Night at the Spikes

Saturday, August 23

Game Time: 6:35 pm

Cost: \$11 per ticket

*St. A's Team Photo before the game - 5:30 pm!*

#### Additional notes:

- Ike the Spike will visit us during the game.
- Close to Bathrooms, Food Concessions, Ice Cream & Beverages!
- **Fireworks** following the game!
- **Please sign up by August 2.**
- Our seats are easily accessible for all.
- Email [Children@standrewsc.org](mailto:Children@standrewsc.org) with questions.

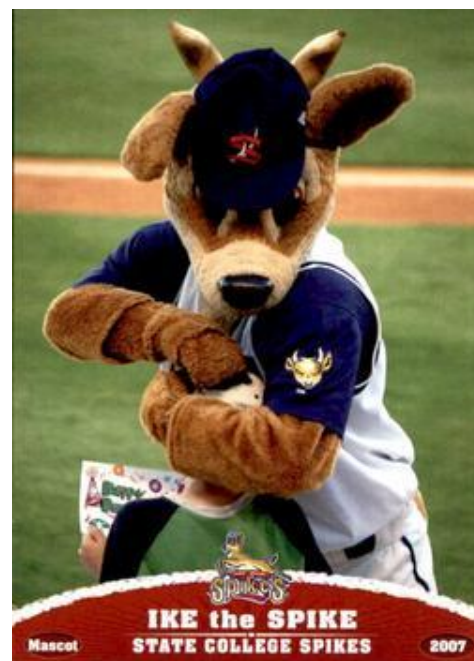
### SIGN UP HERE.

Pay online at:

<https://onrealm.org/StAndrewsC/give/SpikesBB>

or by cash or check with "Spikes" in the memo line.

Email [office@standrewsc.org](mailto:office@standrewsc.org) with questions.



### Blessing of the Backpacks

Sunday, August 24

Following the 10 a.m. service  
In front of the church



Everyone is invited to bring their backpacks, laptops, briefcases or school and work bags of any kind to receive a blessing for the start of the new school year. This is a special reminder that God is with us as we go about the business of our days, and an important boost of courage as we enter new school and work routines.

The blessings will take place after the service in front of St. Andrew's and be followed by **ICE CREAM** on the lawn.

## Parish Picnic

Sunday, September 7

Following the 10 a.m. service  
Holmes Foster Park, Pavilion 2

Make plans to join us on Sunday, September 7, following the 10 a.m. service for a picnic at Holmes Foster Park.

St. Andrew's will provide hot dogs, hamburgers, veggie burgers, buns \* and all the fixings, beverages, plates, napkins, and utensils.

If your last name begins with A-L, please bring a side dish to share.

If your last name begins with M-Z, please bring a dessert to share.

You may also want to bring a folding chair. Please feel free to wear your picnic clothes to church so you can head directly to the park after church.



If you can help with setup, cleanup, or grilling, please contact Darlene Nordoff at

\*Yes, there will be gluten free buns, too!

## 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.*

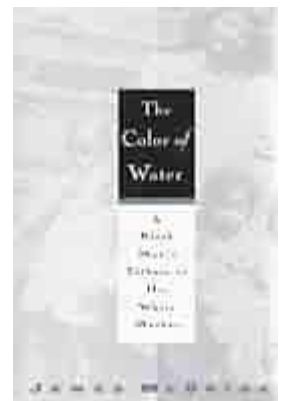
### BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, September 2, 7 p.m.

Room 324

The Book Club is taking a break in August, but will return on September 2 to discuss *The Color of Water* by James McBride. In this memoir, McBride intertwines the narratives of his life as a biracial individual, one of twelve children of a white mother and black father, and his mother's experiences as a Polish immigrant and Orthodox Jew. He discusses his mother's contributions to his life and coming to terms with his confusion over his own identity.

Visitors and newcomers are always welcome.





## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** If you have an August 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 Kayla Kroczyński	6 Tyler King	17 Walter Wells
1 Duncan Loviscky	7 Kendall Mainzer	17 Sharon Rovansek
3 Rebecca Jackson	13 Steve Hopkins	17 Andrea de Carle
3 Adolph Hoehling	13 Darla Houseman	20 Liz King
4 Paul Hochreiter	13 Joan Bouchard	26 Milly Hopkins
4 Bob Ayer	14 Zach Paulsen	27 Thomas Valentine
4 Ben Rogers	15 Wendi Keeler	30 Melinda Pugliese
5 Dick Meyer	15 Ellie Harper	30 Gregg Rogers
6 Sally Marley	16 Bryson Christopher	31 Daniel Pacchioli

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** If you have an August 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

Erica, Molly, Walter, Marion, George, Teri, Jim, Janet, Mavis, Mena, Mickey, Milly, Bob, Joan, Kathy, Jeff, Ann, Pam, Jordan, Ty, Isa, Isabelle, Zahra, Eileen, Eugene, Kevin, Vicki, Diane, Sara, Emily, David, Frank, Robbie, Earl, Andy, Terry, Elisabeth, Jessica, Leonora, Alexandra, Isaac, Wilhelmina, Fran, Archer, Anne, Stephen, Jane, Thomas, Cheryl, Tiffany, Miles, Micaela, Matthew, Bobby, Chris, Rob, Lucy, William, Maralyn, Kathy, Theresa, Kayleigh, Aiden, Lynda, Alissa

### Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

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

### Our Sister City in Ukraine

Nizhyn

## SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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