

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

September 2025

What Would Be Different About My Life If I Were a Christian?

Rowan Williams, the former archbishop of Canterbury, once told a story about an encounter with a particularly brilliant professor at Oxford or Cambridge or one of those impossibly prestigious academies. The professor was nonchalant about Christianity – not hostile towards it, but certainly not brought up in the faith and pretty unimpressed with what he had seen, if not of Christianity, at least of Christians. He was a smart and sincere and curious person, and he asked Rowan Williams what would be different about his life if he were a Christian.

The question took Rowan Williams aback – what **WOULD** be different, if he were Christian. Of course, the Archbishop could have told him the party line – that if he were Christian, he would be saved. His life would be wholly dedicated to Christ, and he would, in the fullness of time, rejoice and glory in the presence of God for all eternity.

But this seemed like an unhelpful response to this person asking the question, because this was not really what he was asking. He wasn't asking about the great by and by – and he certainly wasn't looking for a sermon.

What he was asking was: what would be different about my life **NOW** if I were a Christian. What would being a Christian require me to do **NOW**? How would being a Christian impel me to act toward other people **NOW**? Would I be in a different relationship with the people I encounter in my life? Would my behavior and my habits be altered? Could someone tell that I was a Christian by observing me **NOW**, by seeing the way I act, the choices I make **NOW**.

Over the last several weeks, our Lectionary has taken us on a brief walk through the Letter to the Hebrews – one of my favorites. The letter is different than Paul's letters – it's probably more of a sermon than a letter – and goes deeply into who Jesus is and how the beleaguered community of his followers should respond. It deals with the question the professor asked the archbishop, at least indirectly. To be a Christian is to live in the world in a certain way, not carried away by all sorts of strange teachings, with hearts strengthened by grace, not by meaningless performance or ceremonies. Crucially, it is to be a people who have no place at the center of power or authority within the city gates – because the one we follow, Jesus Christ, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, died outside the city gates – and it is there that he waits for us, still. **That** is what is different about our lives because we are Christian. We are discerning, careful, reflective, not swept up by cleverness or gossip or slander – we look for the grace of God, not for the latest shiny thing – and we know, deep in our bones, that we are estranged from the world as it is – that we are waiting for the world that is to come.

This does not absolve us of our responsibility to each other and to the world. Two of the five vows in our baptismal covenant require us to be robustly engaged in the world – 'inside the city gates'. But we do this in the light of Christ's death and resurrection, in the 'conviction of things not seen'. This faith keeps us connected to the ground of all being, to the source of all love. And we gather – week in and week out – to pray, to confess, to be fed... to be reminded of who we are and whose we are.

Ted+

Welcome Back!

After a season apart due to travel and summer schedules, it's time to reconnect, catch up with old friends, and welcome new ones – starting with our parish picnic this Sunday! Please see the information below and make plans to join us as we kick off a new year together.

Church school starts this Sunday (see page 6) and many of our groups and ministries will resume meetings and activities this month. There are many ways to be involved at St. Andrew's - maybe there's something new you would like to try this fall. (See listings on page 9 and throughout this newsletter for more information.)

As we look ahead, this fall brings fresh opportunities to grow in faith, serve together, and strengthen our community. Welcome back!

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 dnordoff737@gmail.com.

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

TED Talk

WELCOME BACK Penn State Students

For all new and returning students, please join us in the Meditation Chapel in Pasquerilla Spiritual Center on Tuesday, September 2, for a service of Holy Eucharist followed by fellowship and ice cream! All are welcome.

Our campus ministry is looking forward to a new year and new possibilities. We will offer a weekly Eucharist and gathering on Tuesdays this fall (see below.) If you would like to attend services on Sunday, our two local Episcopal churches are listed below. You would be very welcome at both St. John's and St. Andrew's.

Every **Tuesday** in the Fall (beginning September 2)
Service of Holy Eucharist

6:15 p.m., Meditation Chapel, Pasquerilla Spiritual Center

Followed by fellowship, snacks, and games Bring a friend!!

Every **Sunday** in the Fall
Service of Holy Eucharist

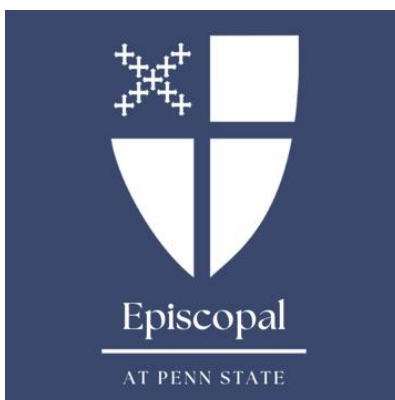
10 a.m., St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 208 W. Foster Ave, State College

10 a.m., St. John's Episcopal Church, 120 W. Lamb, Bellefonte, PA 16823

If you have any questions about the group or ways to get involved, please reach out to me at ebcteddy20@gmail.com or see our website, www.episcopalatpennstate.com

With affection,

Ted+



Why am I a Daughter of the King?

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.”
(NIV, Luke 10:41-42).



We are all well acquainted with the story of Mary and Martha. Martha is the sister who, when hearing that the Lord is coming, runs around like the proverbial chicken sans head. And her own efforts are not lost on her, as she remarks to anyone that could hear that her sister Mary was not helping to serve the Lord. But the Lord sees all and reminds Martha that Mary has chosen the better path. I have often thought of Mary and Martha as two halves of one whole; I have some of each in me. Prior to 2000, I cultivated the ‘Martha’ within me, serving on altar guild, organizing parish life activities, serving as a Lay Eucharistic Visitor, serving on vestry – the list went on and on. And I lamented that I could not find the time to have a ‘Mary side’, to just sit and be with the Lord, be in God’s presence, experience the Holy Spirit personally. Then, in the year 2000 I took vows to become a Daughter of the King, and I began focusing on the ‘Mary’ within me.

Daughters take vows of prayer and service, and as a ‘Martha’ I could easily fulfill the vow of service just by the many things I did for our parish and our clergy. I firmly cemented myself into the ‘Martha’ role. Service vow accomplished! Check. But what about my ‘Mary’ role? Daughters taught me how to become a ‘Mary’, while not forsaking the ‘Martha’ in me, and taught me how to settle firmly into my faith, not just on Sunday mornings, but every day of the week.

I often remind others that “Daughters are not called to do; Daughters are called to be”. What does that mean? It means that I find time each day to thank God for just being a part of my life. I do spend time each day in prayer and I listen for the still, small voice of God. However, as Daughters in a chapter we spend quiet time together in worship and prayer and study. We work together to explore and strengthen our individual relationships with God, so that when troubles present themselves, as they often do, we know that we will turn with confidence to God and lay those troubles on Him. When I do turn to God in quiet or in prayer, I find that peace that passes all understanding. And I know that Mary made the better choice. This is why I am a Daughter of the King.

“Two are better than one . . . For if they fall, one will lift up the other; but woe to one who is alone and falls and does not have another to help.” (NRSV, Ecclesiastes 4:9-10) Daughters are a sisterhood who support me in good times and in challenging days. Daughters lift me up when I am down. Daughters are always ready with a prayer. That is why I’m a Daughter.

Amen.

Faithfully,

Michele Marini

TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer



July 2025

| | July | Year-to-Date | % of Budget | 2025 BUDGET |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Parishioner Contributions * | \$ 17,820 | \$ 266,441 | 60% | \$ 443,000 |
| Total Operating Income | \$ 26,084 | \$ 302,382 | 61% | \$ 496,600 |
| Total Operating Expense | \$ 45,176 | \$ 332,458 | 57% | \$ 580,022 |
| Surplus (Deficit) | \$ (19,092) | \$ (30,075) | | |

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

VESTRY UPDATE, Vestry



August 2025

The vestry didn't meet in August. The next vestry meeting will be on Sept. 9, 2025, in Room 324 at 7 p.m.

All are invited.

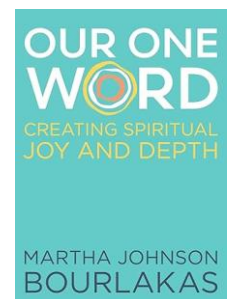
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our One Word Bible Study

presented by the Daughters of the King

Wednesdays, September 3 and September 17

4 p.m. in Room 325



Daughters of the King at St. Andrew's are continuing to host an alternative kind of Bible study this month. Any and all are welcome to join us on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in room 325.

We explore the secular to spiritual connections for everyday words using a method proposed by Martha Johnson Bourlakis in her book *Our One Word – Creating Spiritual Joy and Depth* (book no longer in print). We dissect the ways in which common, ordinary words occur in scripture, in hymns and in our personal encounters, and how sometimes the understanding of a word is changed by the context in which that the word is used.

Michele Marini is very excited to examine the word '**prayer**' on Wednesday, September 3. No homework is required. You only need a curiosity about the impact words have on us and our spiritual practices. Come prepared to enjoy the conversations and immerse yourselves in prayer.

Another session will be offered on September 17, 2025, at 4 p.m. in Room 325. Light snacks will be provided.

For additional information, please contact Michele Marini at 814-574-9639 or email Michele at michelemarini@comcast.net.

From the CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Nursery

**The nursery is open every Sunday
for families with children ages, birth to 4 years.**

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 for Sunday mornings all year long.



Kick off to the New Church School Year September 7!

All children are welcome to come to our Church School Classes. We are learning through teaching a new curriculum this year. You are invited to learn more by visiting: [StoryMakers](https://www.standrewsc.org/storymakers) website.



From Story Makers:

"Our hope is to breathe new life into the old stories. We hope to spark the imaginations of our young readers and their teachers. The Bible is beautifully written, and peppered with drama, rebellion, and real humanity. Scripture does not shy away from the human experience or humanity's deep need for divine intervention. Our mission is for kids and grownups to connect to God's story through play, art, and social-emotional connectors. Our desire is for kids to know they are loved, forgiven, and are grafted into God's story."

Our two classes meet every Sunday during the 10 am service:

- Story Makers, Ages 5 - 8
- Story Tellers, Ages 9 - 14



We are in real need of volunteers to be in the classroom.

Teaching assistants are needed every Sunday. **You** are needed to be a warm and welcoming presence and to assist the lead teacher once a month. We love for the children to get to know the teens and adults who attend our church.

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 happy to sign forms for those teens who need service hours.

Classes begin on September 7; there is time to join the team!

Contact Sarah Skvarla at children@standrewsc.org for more information.

Date Savers – Sunday, October 5

The Feast of St. Francis is celebrated on October 5, 2025. Children may bring their pets or a stuffie to be blessed. Our classes will learn more about the life of St. Francis and his respect for all of God's creatures. He is known for his ministry to the poor and those in need. St. Francis is the Patron Saint of animals, birds and ecology.



OUTREACH

Interfaith Human Services Annual Community Care Auction

September 15 (9 a.m.) – 21 (9 p.m.)

Auction website: <https://www.interfaithhumanservices.org/auction/>



St. Andrew's is a member congregation of IHS, a collaborative effort of faith communities whose purpose is to address many unmet social and economic needs of low-income residents in our community. This online auction is one of their biggest fundraisers each year.

Use the link above to preview items that will be up for bids and come back on the 21st to start bidding.

This year's auction will also feature a raffle running through the month of September. The prizes will be monetary: 2-\$500, 1-\$250, 2-\$100, and 1 mystery money tree. See one of our representatives to the IHS board, Marion Schwartz, Connie Puckett, or Michele Hamilton, for tickets.

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

Services



Experiences



Handmade Items



Gift Cards



2024 STATE COLLEGE CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, October 19

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



SAVE THE DATE!

St. Andrew's will host other area churches and organizations for this year's CROP Walk. Registration will take place here and the easy 5K walk will start and end here.

Hunger is one of the greatest injustices facing our world, but it doesn't have to be this way. Ending hunger is possible in our lifetime. You can help make it happen. The money we raise will be used to help the 950 million people in the world who don't have enough to eat. Twenty-five percent of the funds raised in the State College CROP Hunger will stay in State College. The rest is used by Church World Service globally to provide food and water, seeds and tools, wells and water systems, technical training, micro-enterprise loans, disaster relief and more.

COMING SOON, more information on how to register, join the St. Andrew's team, donate, and more!

UPCOMING



Friday Films

Friday, September 12

7 p.m. in Canterbury Hall

Snacks at 6:30 p.m.

Rated R

2h 17m

On Friday, September 12, Friday Films will present the 2025 film, *Sinners*.

Produced, written, and directed by Ryan Coogler, *Sinners* stars Michael B. Jordan in as criminal twin brothers who return to 1932 Mississippi Delta to start a juke joint, only to be confronted by a supernatural evil. Music and symbolism are important aspects of this film, which is much more than a horror movie.

We will gather at 6:30 p.m. for pizza and other refreshments. The film will start at 7 p.m.

Friday Films are free and all are welcome.

BONUS: On Sunday, September 14 at Adult Forum, the Rev. Kevin Barron will talk about the deeper meaning and symbolism of *Sinners*. Adult Forum begins promptly at 9 a.m. in Canterbury Hall.

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.

COMPASSIONATE LIFE

Thursday, September 4 and 18
9:30 a.m. in Room 325

The Women of Compassionate Life invite all women of the church and their friends to join us in prayer and study, conversation and connection, compassion in action... and coffee! We meet in Room 325 at 9:30 a.m. on the first and third Thursday of each month.

Our first meeting for this season is Thursday, September 4. There will be time to catch up with each other and welcome new members, enjoy refreshments, and finish our book discussion from last spring. (If you haven't read the last chapter or even the book, please come anyway)

Questions? Contact Laurel Zydney or Darlene Nordoff.

YARN MINISTRY

Sunday, September 14
11:15 a.m. in Room 324

Yarn Ministry will meet September 14 following the main service (around 11:15) in the Library. Bring your knitting and crochet, whether it's working on a ministry project or not and, if you like, a snack to share. As usual, a Zoom option is usually available.

Email anne.hoag@gmail.com for the zoom link.

Future meetings: October 12, November 9, December 14. In the first half of 2026, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10 and June 14.



PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Sunday, September 14
11:15 a.m. in Room 324

Twelve years ago, a small group of Saint Andrews parishioners organized fabric, cut strips and took over a small closet in Room 119 because prayer quilters need a place to store their stash. Prayer quilts are created to bring comfort and a sense of community to shut-ins from our parish. Simple, colorful blocks of fabric create warm lap quilts, and instead of quilting the sandwiched fabric layers, yarn is used to anchor the blocks. When the quilt is completed, parishioners tie knots with the yarn to secure the layers, and they can say a prayer for the intended recipient of the prayer quilt as they tie the knot. Prayer quilters will gather on the second Thursday of each month at 10 a.m. in Room 119 in the Trost Wing. Minimal sewing experience is helpful but not required.



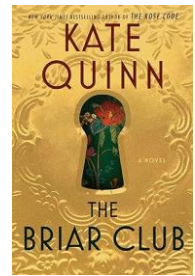
If you are interested in this ministry of comfort, please contact Allison in St. Andrew's church office or Michele Marini at michelemarini@comcast.net or call 814-574-9639.

BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, October 7
7 p.m., Room 324

The Book Group will meet Tuesday, October 7, to discuss *The Briar Club* by Kate Quinn, a “haunting and powerful story of female friendships and secrets in a Washington, DC, boardinghouse during the McCarthy era.”

The Book Group is open to all. Newcomers and guests are always welcome.



PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

The Parish Life Committee supports various events in the church calendar year. Some of those events are fun and celebratory; others are more serious and reflective. Committee members donate and prepare food; and decorate, set up, serve, and clean up for the events. Basically, each member serves in a type of stone soup ministry, where every contribution, large and small, contributes to the whole.

Come join us, won't you? You'll be glad you did!

Contact Chairperson Darlene Nordoff (dnordoff737@gmail.com) if you have any questions or would like to join the Parish Life Committee.

Contact Robin Bastress (bassandrobin@aol.com) if you'd like to help with funeral receptions.

Contact Scott Strouse (scottallen1750@gmail.com) if you'd like to help with Coffee Hour for after the 10 a.m. worship service.



ALTAR GUILD

Calling all introverts!

If you are looking for a way to support our church that doesn't require money, a lot of time and effort, evangelizing, greeting strangers, or even talking, have we got a group for you! We don't ask you to do any of those things.



The Altar Guild is always looking for more members! If you have a yen to serve God and his Church, but not a lot of time to devote to anything, Altar Guild could be a perfect way to add a ministry to your life. We have four small teams, so each team works only once a month for an hour on a Saturday and the services on Sunday plus an occasional wedding or funeral. We dust, swat stray cobwebs, vacuum, straighten the things in the pews, clean and polish silver, vest the chalice, set up and clean up the altar, wash communion glasses, and launder linens. Join us and learn to handle beautiful sacred items and where they fit in our worship.

Anyone interested in being added to a team can call or email Teri Smith, 814-238-5964, ssmith2124@aol.com.

“As I handle holy things, grant that my whole life may be illuminated and blessed by You.”

CURRENT ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS: please send Teri Smith the email address and phone number you prefer for the 25-26 Altar Guild schedule. Email ssmith2124@aol.com.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If you have a September 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.

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 2 Allison Shea | 16 Bob Shepherd | 21 Frank Barksdale |
| 2 Dave Pacchioli | 16 Ted Alter | 21 Aaron Packard |
| 3 Peg Barksdale | 18 Ron Krasnansky | 23 Jason McCloskey |
| 4 Corinne Coplan | 18 Debbie Meder | 26 Anna Christopher |
| 7 Josie Hughes | 18 Paige Andrew | 27 Claire Mammoser |
| 9 Colleen Kennedy | 18 Thomas Hall | 28 Zach Humphreys |
| 9 Scott Thomas | 18 Callie Gericke | 29 Ian Bell |
| 9 James Ryan | 19 Steve Allison | 29 Andrew Chisholm |
| 10 David Gaines | 19 Doug Dailey | |
| 14 Bob Ascah | 20 Lorna DonTigny | |
| 15 Lori Pacchioli | 20 Elisabeth Edmonston | |



Those for Whom We Pray

Erica, Molly, Walter, Marion, Teri, Janet, Mavis, Mena, Mickey, Milly, Bob, Ann, Pam, Joan, Kelley, Kathy, Eugene, Kevin, Vicki, Diane, Sara, Emily, David, Frank, Robbie, Earl, Andy, Terry, Alexandra, Isaac, Wilhelmina, Fran, Penny, Amy, Celia, Ingrid, Tim, Gus, Kathryn, Sheralee, Elizabeth, Zahra, Ty, Jordan, Laurie, Isa, Ivonne, Jess, Jessica, Uncle Will, Melissa, Vern, Lenore, Archer, Thomas, Cheryl, Tiffany, Miles, Micaela, Matthew, Bobby, Chris, Rob, Lucy, William, Maralyn, Theresa, Kayleigh, Aiden, Lynda, Alissa, Jess, Jessica, Jeff, Tom, Barbara, Shelley, Connie, Margot, Bryan, Michael, Robert, Anne, Sharee, Barbara, Huie, Debbie, Loel, Pat

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

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

SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

208 W. FOSTER AVENUE

STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801.

OFFICE: 814-237-7659

FAX: 814-867-7959

EMAIL: office@standrewsc.org

WEB PAGE: www.standrewsc.org