

*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 2025**

## Your Advent Mission

There is something about the Christmas season that drives me crazy. No, that's not right. It's really something about the season of Advent, and it isn't Advent itself, it is the anti-Advent that we encounter in the world around us. Remember when the Christmas shopping season started after Thanksgiving? Now it starts immediately after Halloween! How long before we start seeing Christmas commercials following the Fourth of July?!? Oh wait, they already do that.

I know I'm not the first to rage about the over commercialism of Christmas. In a way, it is regular fodder for a clergy person's December newsletter article. But it does seem like things are getting worse. And it does give us an opportunity to reflect on Advent. I'm certainly not suggesting that we all go away to a monastery during December where we can do nothing but contemplate the coming of Christ. We all live in the world. I get that. We all have to do Christmas shopping for family and friends. We all have to prepare for special meals, house guests or travel, and entertaining. We all have special traditions that we struggle to keep in these hectic times. We all want to decorate our homes inside and out, send cards to people we may only communicate with once a year, and wear that sweater or tie we only get away with wearing this time of year. I don't want to suggest that we should be separate from all that fun stuff. After all, the festivities are important for many reasons. They give our lives structure and meaning. They keep us connected to our loved ones with shared experiences. And they help us make a dark and dreary time of year feel special and filled with light.

So, what am I saying? Only that we look for the coming of Christ in the midst of all this Christmas craziness. Jesus tells us to "Keep awake!" We do not know when the Son of Man is coming in his glory. So, we need to be prepared, not just during Advent, but always. It's just that this time of year we are reminded of this truth. It really is a great opportunity, because of the busyness and the commercialization, to practice taking a moment to quiet our souls and wait upon the Lord. There is something deliciously countercultural about doing this. We can rebel against the pressure we feel to find the perfect present, or to be the perfect host, or to have the perfect looking home, and we can focus on what it means to seek Christ in our lives, in other people, and in the world around us.

Your mission as a Christian in the season of Advent is to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to prepare a place in your heart to receive Christ at his coming, to try and embody Christ in the world, to discover anew how Christ is already present and working in your life, and to prepare the way of the Lord in a world that longs to receive him. All this while steadily grinding away at your holiday to do list that won't let you rest until New Year's.

Fr. Jeff+



## TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer

### October 2025

	October	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2025 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 29,544	\$ 357,655	81%	\$ 443,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 38,529	\$ 406,386	82%	\$ 496,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 57,441	\$ 470,910	81%	\$ 580,022
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (18,912)	\$ (64,524)		

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

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

### November 2025

The vestry met on Nov. 11, 2025.

The Stewardship Chairperson gave an update on the number of pledges and totals for 2026, thus far. More are desired. The first draft of the 2026 Budget was put forth by the Finance Committee. Vestry will consider this budget and recommend changes if necessary. The Planning and Development Committee identified three main concerns for the future planning: the proposed new zoning ordinances, the roof project, and prospects for ongoing income. The Nominating Committee for new vestry members is actively seeking nominees. If you would like to serve on the vestry, or know someone you would like to nominate (with their permission), please contact Andrea McCloskey, [avm11@psu.edu](mailto:avm11@psu.edu).

The next vestry meeting is on December 9 at 7:00 p.m. in room 324. All are welcome.

### Vestry and Convention Delegate Nominations

#### Deadline, December 15

The vestry nominating committee has begun the process of contacting members to seek nominees to serve on St. Andrews Vestry and as delegates to our 2026 Diocesan Convention. Please consider serving in this capacity with thought and prayer.

To be eligible to serve on vestry **or** as a convention delegate, you must be

- baptized,
- at least 16 years old, and
- a confirmed or received member of St. Andrew's in good standing
- who supports the parish through regular financial contributions.

You may self-nominate or nominate someone else. Please make sure your nominee is willing to serve before submitting his/her name. You may submit nominations before December 15 in writing to the church office or by email to Andrea McCloskey at [avm11@psu.edu](mailto:avm11@psu.edu).

### Reminders

- If you have not already done so, please submit your **2026 pledge** as soon as possible.
- Please mark your calendar for our **2026 Annual Meeting**, Sunday, January 25, at approximately 11:30 a.m. (following the 10 a.m. service.)

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



### Taizé Prayer Services

Wednesdays December 3, 10, and 17

5:45 p.m. in the church

### First Sunday in Advent – November 30

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite I

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II  
Church School

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

### Second Sunday in Advent – December 7

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 14

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 21

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 14

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 14, 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 choir and carols sung by the congregation.

Music that will be sung by the choir this year includes:

George Kirkby THIS IS THE TRUTH SENT FROM ABOVE

David Wilcocks SUSSEX CAROL

Elizabeth Poston JESUS CHRIST THE APPLE TREE

John Rutter I TOO SHALL WALK TO BETHLEHEM

Sergei Rachmaninoff AVE MARIA

William Byrd O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM - *sung by the Schola Cantorum of Episcopal at Penn State*

Hector Berlioz THE SHEPHERD'S FAREWELL

Gustav Holst THREE KINGS FROM PERSIAN LANDS

Cecilia McDowell LO, HE SLUMBERS



The Parish Life Committee is getting ready to provide hospitality, a beautiful environment, and yummy food for our own St. Andrew's tradition, a festive reception following the service of Lessons and Carols. As always, it takes a village and your support is greatly appreciated.

Here are two 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/2025LessonsandCarols) (bit.ly/2025LessonsandCarols) to see what is needed and to sign up or contact Darlene Nordoff.
- ♣ If you have an Advent wreath with votive-size candles or wide short candles (not tall candles) that you can loan us for the evening, please let Darlene Nordoff know. (Pictures included for reference.)



## A Season of Gratitude

As we prepare for Thanksgiving and Advent, St. Andrew's invites you to share your prayers of gratitude and thanks. Please write things that you are grateful for on the lavender cards at the ends of each pew in the sanctuary when you are here for worship and place your completed card in the offering plate. You can do this once, twice or weekly. We will gather the cards at the end of each service and include the thanksgivings anonymously in the weekly email and bulletin so we can all join in prayer for our many blessings.

Here are some prayers that have been shared so far:

My family and friends (3)

Family (2)

The 8 o'clock breakfast bunch

The support of my understanding wife

Having enough food and shelter without having to worry about being food insecure

Being able to share what I have

Saint Andrew's community; this church and the people here (3)

For reminding me to have hope and showing my children what community is

All leaders in the world who are working for peace

A safe place to live

Good mental and physical health of myself, my husband, and cat, plus that of my son and his wife

The moments when I have the chance to connect more deeply with my kids

The beauty I get to enjoy in our church: the stained glass windows, the choir and organ music, the flowers on the altar

Jesus and my family

Wonderful children and wonderful husband

Best girlfriends ever

My fun job

The divorce support group

My house, car, food and my needs being met

Films, theater and writers

The ocean, vacations, traveling, coffee

Good medical exam

For caregivers, professional nurses, and all who care for our sick, infirm and unwell

Goods to share and people to share them with.

A parish where all are welcome; women are empowered, and the laity share in ministry and governance

Our priests

Vivian, Bryan Tom, Emily, CC Ryan

For my wonderful fiancé, Gabriel Clements

The support of friends and family

The helpers: those who care

My family all being together

Family gathering at Thanksgiving

**What are you grateful for this Advent season?**

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Adult Forum

Sundays December 7, 14, and 21

9 – 9:45 a.m.

Canterbury Hall

Join us this Advent for a four-week adult formation series led by Fr. Jeff that explores themes of

HOLY WAITING – November 30

HOPE - December 7

TRANSFORMATION – December 14 and

JOYFUL EXPECTATION – December 21

Each week we'll reflect on scripture, engage in conversation, and practice simple spiritual disciplines to help us prepare our hearts for Christ's coming.

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

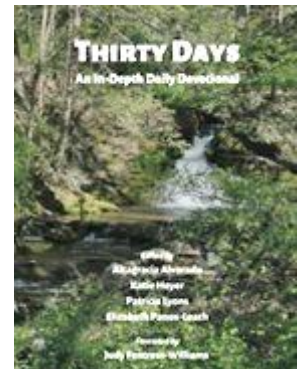
### Advent Daily Devotional

Saturday December 6 and 13

9:30 a.m. in Room 325

The members of St. Andrew's Order of the Daughters of the King invite you to join them in following the devotional workbook *Thirty Days: An In-Depth Daily Devotional for Advent* this Advent season.

The study sessions are held on Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. in Room 325. The remaining sessions are scheduled for December 6 and 13. You can attend any or all sessions. Please contact Michele Marini (814-574-9639) with questions or for more information.



## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

News from our  
**CHILDREN and YOUTH PROGRAMS**



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

**St. Nicholas will visit us on December 7.**

**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.



### Christmas Eve

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

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

**Please complete this [form](#)** to let us know if your child/children plan to be here for the Christmas Eve Family Service and want to be part of the Christmas Pageant.





## Celebrating the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love Advent



**The bulletin board by Canterbury Hall is sharing a Chisholm Family Advent Tradition. ❤️**

**The Advent Calendars are created by Andrew and Melody Chisolm's wonderfully talented granddaughter, Ella.**

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS

### Advent Taizé Services

Wednesdays, December 3, 10, and 17  
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 12  
6:30 p.m., snacks  
7 p.m., Movie starts  
Canterbury Hall

#### **The Holdovers (2023)**

Rated PG  
2 h 30 m



Friday Films will screen *The Holdovers* on Friday, December 12, in Canterbury Hall. Please join us for this new holiday classic where a curmudgeonly instructor (Paul Giamatti) at a New England prep school remains on campus for two snowy weeks during Christmas break 1970 to supervise a handful of students unable to journey home.

We will gather at 6:30 p.m. for snacks and pre-film socializing. The film will begin at 7:00 p.m. and a lively discussion will follow for those who wish to stay. The film is free and all are welcome.



## OUTREACH

### Interfaith Human Services Bell Ringing

December 7 and 14  
Meyer Dairy



The Wishing Well Program from Interfaith Human Services, provides funding for programs that assist Centre County residents throughout the year. Just one hour of your time can help raise money for IHS programs like the Fuel Bank which helps Centre County residents heat their homes every winter and an expanded car repair program so that people can get to work and medical appointments.



**We still have open spots to fill.** Please use the link below to volunteer a little bit of your time to the Wishing Well campaign. on December 7 or December 14.

If you have any questions, please contact Connie Puckett [cjpucket@comcast.net](mailto:cjpucket@comcast.net) or Michele Hamilton [hamiltonmichele45@gmail.com](mailto:hamiltonmichele45@gmail.com); or visit the IHS website at [interfaithhumanservices.org](http://interfaithhumanservices.org).

Sign up at <https://bit.ly/IHSWishingWell2025>

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### Tradition of Giving

#### Thank you for the Gift Card Blessings for Thanksgiving!

Thank you for your generosity! It is truly heartwarming to be able to give so much to our families in need in our school district.

All cards received after our date WILL be given! These cards are appreciated during upcoming holidays, too!

Blessings to all of You!

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St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Welcome to Planet Green Recycle

#### Thank you to those of you who have donated used AND new cartridges.

Recycle your ink cartridges **HERE** at St. Andrew's!

Look for the box in the Narthex. All YOU need to do is drop your used cartridges in the box and we will do the rest.

Planet Green will send us \$1 per cartridge to put back in our budget for our printing use. You will also save on YOUR order of ink cartridges!

**Important!** This is St. A's Fundraising Program ID code: 32766.

<https://www.planetgreenrecycle.com/>

877-995-9062

[info@planetgreenrecycle.com](mailto:info@planetgreenrecycle.com)



**Inkjet Cartridges**

We **Only** accept inkjet cartridges for recycling.

## Red Cross Blood Drive

Friday, December 26  
10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Canterbury Hall

Add one more gift to your shopping list for Christmas this year – sign up to give blood. Donate with a friend or family member. Save a life.

Schedule your appointment

**Online** at [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter StAndrewsEC  
Or call 1-800-RED-CROSS (1-800-733-2767)



## IN THE COMMUNITY



### *Alternative Christmas Fair*

University Baptist & Brethren Church

Sunday, December 7, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

411 South Burrowes St., State College

Support more than 30 charities!

Fun, Food, Fellowship and Philanthropy

See you at the Fair!

### Charities include:

Interfaith Human Services

Centre Helps

Think We Not Me

Centre County PAWS

Centre LGBTQ+

CVIM

Centre Safe

Clearwater Conservancy

Jana Marie Foundation

Mid-State Literacy

Out of the Cold

Ridgelines

State College Food Bank

SC Meals on Wheels

Tides

Housing Transitions

For more information,  
scan the QR code.



## Toot-in-Common Concert

Monday, December 15  
2 p.m. in the Church

The flute choir, Toot-in-Common, including St. Andrew's member Judy Moore, will present their annual holiday concert at St. Andrew's on Monday, December 15.





# *Yuletide Echoes*

FEATURING WORKS BY FAURÉ, LISZT, & BRAHMS,  
AND YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS



MADELEINE  
CHRISTOPHER,  
MEZZO-SOPRANO



MAEVE BERRY,  
PIANO



ABI  
LIEBEGOTT,  
SOPRANO

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 2PM  
ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
21 S. MAIN ST, LEWISTOWN, PA





## 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 14

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

St. Andrews Yarn Ministry and The Mommy Shoppe (TMS) began a new partnership in November. Knitters and crocheters of St. Andrews now make baby blankets, Peace Pals and other handmades for TMS local family clients. Parishioners Barb Downs and Anne Hoag delivered the 14 handmade baby blankets and 109 Peace Pal dolls. Most of the Peace Pals were knitted by volunteer Sandy Gleason for Carol Falke, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, and entrusted to our yarn ministry. Yarn Ministry creates handmades for other organizations too, including the New York Ronald McDonald House and the Hollidaysburg Veterans' Home. The Mommy Shoppe, a mission of the Houserville UMC-House of Hope, is a non-profit providing free children's clothing to registered families. All clothing, toys and baby items such as strollers, highchairs, pack 'n plays, and diaper bags, new and gently used, are donated locally. The Mommy Shoppe is also a popular children's store, retailing affordable, good quality new and used items. The mission of St. Andrews Yarn Ministry is fellowship and prayerful/mindful making with our hands for others.



All are welcome. Contact Anne Hoag, [anne.hoag@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hoag@gmail.com).

The next meeting will be January 11, 2025! To join our email list, or for more information contact Anne Hoag, [anne.hoag@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hoag@gmail.com).

Left to right: Parishioner Anne Hoag, TMS Director Amy Ritter, TMS Volunteer Julie Hoy-Ryland.

Photo Credit: Barb Downs

### COMPASSIONATE LIFE

Thursdays, December 4 and December 18, 9:30 a.m., Room 324

All women are welcome to attend Compassionate Life every first and third Thursday from September to June at 9:30 a.m. in Room 325. We share coffee and conversation and prayers, our spiritual insights and personal journeys, and ideas for compassion in action!

For two Thursdays, we polished the pews in the church. Hopefully, everything gleams for the holidays! We've also been using the book *How We Learn to Be Brave* by Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde, the Episcopal Bishop of Washington. Reading the chapters is not a requirement to attend; our readings inform and inspire us; and you can always glean something and contribute something through your active and quiet participation.



On December 4, we'll meet for a workday. We'll make purple and pink paper chains to help add to the decorations for our reception after the Service of Lessons and Carols. We'll also write cards to soldiers for the non-profit organization A Soldier's Hands. If you have any blank cards, please bring them. Any graphics on the cards should not be seasonal, as the cards could be sent at any time. If you wish to make a \$10 donation, that would also be helpful. We'll also set up the Christmas tree and decorate it!

On December 18, we'll host our annual gift exchange, Carol sing, and brunch. Bring something special from home that you no longer need but feel another woman would enjoy; wrap it and place it under the tree in Room 325. Be ready for lots of shenanigans and laughter

Hope to see you in December! If you have any questions this month, please contact Darlene Nordoff at [dnordoff737@gmail.com](mailto:dnordoff737@gmail.com) or talk to one of the women to attends.



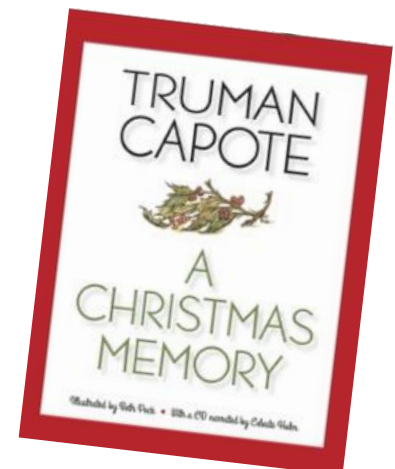
## BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, December 16  
7 p.m., Room 324

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, December 16 at 7 p.m. in Room 324 to discuss Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*.

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 guests 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 Sunday, December 21**. Remember to indicate "Christmas Greens" in the memo line of your check. You can also pay online at <https://onrealm.org/StAndrewsC/give/Greens>



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

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

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

☐ Cash or Check attached

☐ Paid online

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  
3 Jeffrey Kern  
4 Andy Stephenson  
4 Medora Ebersole  
4 Edward Brown  
7 Bill Donovan  
7 Denny Houseman  
8 Frank Vergamini

8 Jerrilyn Muth-Kern  
12 Kitty Mussett  
14 Katie Mussett  
14 Sandy Schwartz  
16 James Harper  
17 Abigail Skvarla  
20 Bruce Cramer  
22 Shane Markowski

22 Mimi Reed  
23 Pete Arnett  
23 Jennifer Irvin  
25 Jesus  
27 Vaun Skvarla  
30 Leslie Laninger



### Those for Whom We Pray

Erica, Molly, Walter, Marion, Sandy, 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, Zahra, Ty, Jordan, Laurie, Isa, Ivonne, Vern, Lenore, Archer, Thomas, Barbara, Tim, Amy, Celia, Gus, Jane, Naomi, Uncle Will, Elisabeth, Heather, Judy, Jane, Robert, Bryan, Anne, Maria, Sue, Katherine, Emanelia, Gordon, Troy, Cathi, Andrew

### Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

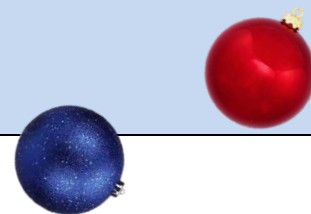
Zach, Christie, Sean, Matt, Eric, Andrew, Zachariah, Cameron, Doug, Jack, Noah

### Our Sister City in Ukraine

Nizhyn

### Our Companion Parish

St. John's, Bellefonte



## SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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