

*The monthly newsletter of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church*  
*Connecting us in community and in Christ*

**February 2026**

## **And You Will Be My Witnesses**

*So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel? He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:6-8*

These are Jesus' final words to his disciples. The resurrected Jesus spoke them immediately before ascending into heaven. The Church has been trying to figure out what exactly he meant by them ever since.

His reference to the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit seems clear enough. Only ten days later the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon them on the day of Pentecost, according to Acts. It is the part about being his witnesses that is open for interpretation. What does it mean to be a witness to Christ? What form should our personal Christian witness take? These questions should always be on our minds as followers of Jesus, but they take on more immediacy as we live through these turbulent times.

At its most basic meaning, bearing witness to Christ means proclaiming his Gospel. That can be a personal testimony of faith or a more general proclamation of the Good News. We do this as we practice our ministry, loving the world in Christ's name. We do this when we speak to someone about what we believe and why. We do this when we, in any quiet way, show ourselves to be Christian. Christians have borne witness in many ways over the centuries. We tell stories of Saints who heroically bore witness at great personal expense. The Greek word martyr means 'witness,' after all.

In these days of ICE roving our city streets and the protests they provoke, we may feel a sense of urgency to witness to our Christian faith. Bishop A. Robert Hirschfeld of New Hampshire recently told his clergy to prepare for a "new era of martyrdom." That may sound a bit extreme, but his comments reflect a call to action that many of us are feeling. How we witness to our faith will not be the same for all of us. One may witness by caring for the persecuted. Another may witness by shooting video on their phone at a demonstration. Still another may witness by writing letters to people in power.

As we try to discern how we should bear witness to Christ as individuals and as a community of faith, let's gather to see how Christians have interpreted the call to witness in the past. Our Lenten program this year will explore biblical and historical moments of Christian witness. There will be a program for both adults and children on Wednesdays in Lent, except during Spring Break. Dinner will start in Canterbury Hall at 6:00 and the program will run from 6:45 to 8:00. The Rev. Kevin Barron and I will work with the adults while our new director of family ministry, Reed Dressler, will lead the children's program. I hope you will join us as we try to figure out together what it means to be Christ's witnesses to the ends of the earth.

Fr. Jeff+

## TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer



December 2025

	December	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2025 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 48,198	\$ 470,308	106%	\$ 443,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 51,839	\$ 526,998	106%	\$ 496,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 44,491	\$ 556,504	96%	\$ 580,022
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 7,348	\$ (29,506)		

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

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



January 2026

The vestry met on January 13, 2026.

The vestry consented unanimously to approve this year's funding for the Altar Guild, to agree to the Community Cafe's participating in the Centre Gives fundraising tool, and to approve moving funds to support the Canterbury Society (St. Andrew's planned giving effort).

Fr. Jeff appointed Owen Jacobson as a Special Youth Representative to the vestry. Owen will attend and participate in vestry meetings, but will not have a vote.

There was a motion to approve a proposal to hire Envinity, a solar energy company, to install solar panels on the new roof to the Parish Life Center. The vestry unanimously passed the proposal. An anonymous member of St. Andrew's, gave a donation of \$35,000 to serve as a down payment on these costs.

Fr. Jeff and the vestry thanked the outgoing members of the vestry, Rich Marini, Sandy Schwartz, Daniel Foster and Kathy Dittmann, for their leadership and hard work.

The meeting ended at 8:30 p.m. with a benediction from Fr. Jeff.

The next vestry meeting is on February 10, 2026, in room 324 at 7 p.m. All are invited.

## 2025 Annual Meeting

The following parishioners were elected at our Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26. Their terms will run from January 2026 to December 2029. Congratulations!

**Melanie Miller**

**Foster**



**Adolph Hoehling**



**Elizabeth Jenkins**



**David Potts**



The following slate of Diocesan Convention delegates was elected: Anthony Grillo, Carolee Grillo, Kelley Paulsen, Paul Hochreiter, and Amy Pritchett with alternates Paul Hochreiter and Allison Shea.

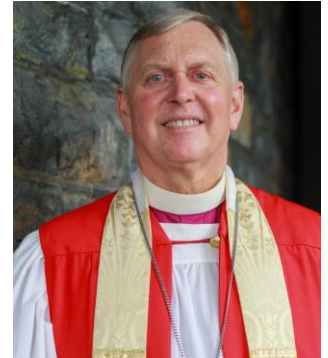
If you missed the Annual Meeting, you can:

- download or view a copy of the agenda and reports [HERE](#).
- watch a recording of the meeting [HERE](#) (enter passcode r+?0F\*Wr)
- download or read a copy of the Rector's Address [HERE](#).

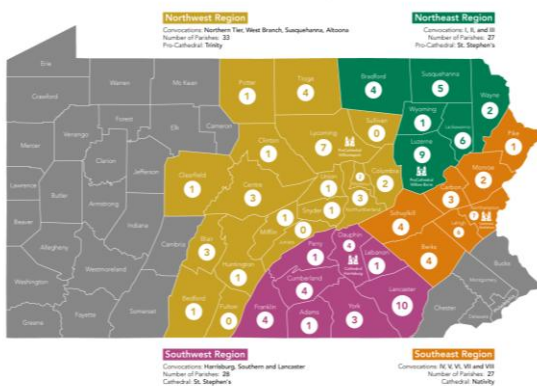
## Bishops in Residence

This year, each bishop will spend three days in residence in each of the four regions of the diocese. The Canon Missioner for that region will coordinate these visits, planning time for the bishop for worship and fellowship with the members of this region.

St. Andrew's is located in the Northwest Region and Bishop Nichols will be in residence in our region Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, February 4-6. While he is here, he will attend Episcopal at Penn State's weekly eucharist. As always, members of the parish are welcome.



### Mission Regions of The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna



### Episcopal at Penn State Service of Holy Eucharist Thursday, February 5

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

To learn more about Bishop Nicholas,  
Click [HERE](#).

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### From the Children's Program

[family@standrewsc.org](mailto:family@standrewsc.org)

**Our Classes meet during the 10 am service.  
All children are welcome!**

**Story Makers**, ages 5 to 8, meet in room 338

**Story Tellers**, ages 9 to 14, meet in room 330 at the end of the hallway!

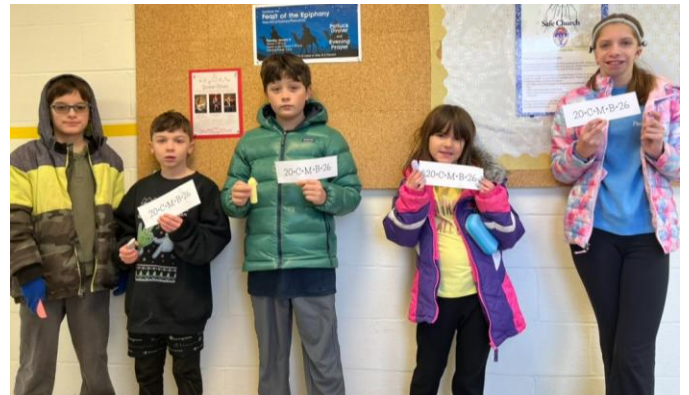
Teachers greet our children in the hallway to make sure that they can find their room! Please email us with any questions: [family@standrewsc.org](mailto:family@standrewsc.org)





*Christus Mansionem Benedicat:*  
**May Christ Bless this House**

Our older class “chalked” St. Andrew’s for the New Year 2026.  
**20 + C + M + B + 26**



## UPCOMING

The Community Cafe at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

208 W. Foster Avenue, State College



**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7**  
Canterbury Hall



6:00 p.m. Doors open  
Food service begins and continues  
throughout the evening

7:00 p.m. Game begins!

**Tickets \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door**  
**Purchase online using QR code**

or go to <https://bit.ly/CCTriviaNight2026>

**All proceeds benefit the Community Cafe**

814-237-7659

[standrewsc.org](http://standrewsc.org)

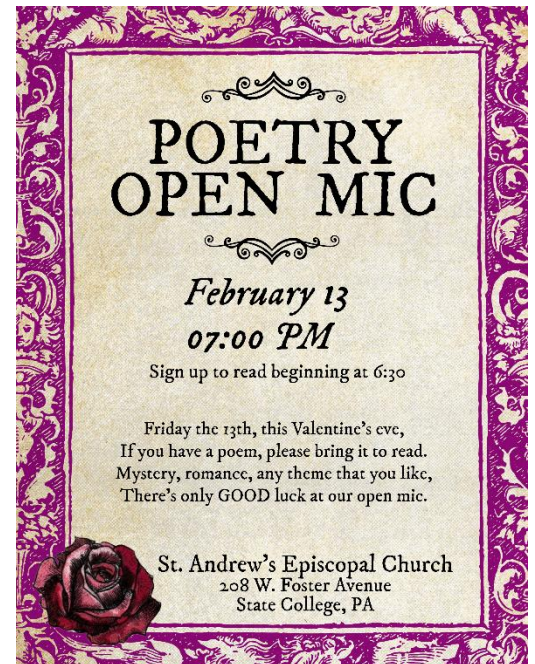
## Poetry Open Mic

Friday, February 13

7 p.m. in Room 325

Friday, February 13, from 7:00 p.m. to 9, we will gather in Room 325 for an open mic poetry reading. Bring your own work and share it! This is an event that is separate from our annual poetry contest. It is open to anyone and everyone. Time will be limited for each poet to read, based on the number who shows up. Light refreshments will be served.

Share this with anyone you know who likes to write and join us for a relaxed, informal evening of poetry.



## FRIDAY FILMS

Friday, February 20

7 p.m., Canterbury Hall  
(Snacks begin at 6:30)

### ***When Harry Met Sally* (1989)**

Rated R

1h 35m

*When Harry Met Sally* was written by Nora Ephron and directed by Rob Reiner and stars Meg Ryan and Billy Crystal. It follows the title characters from the time Harry and Sally meet in Chicago and share a drive to New York City through twelve years of chance encounters in New York, and addresses the question "Can men and women ever just be friends?" The double-platinum soundtrack features performances by Louis Armstrong and Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra, Ray Charles, Bing Crosby and Harry Connick, Jr.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome.

# SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

*Hosted by Parish Life*

**Tuesday, February 17**



Canterbury Hall

**All-You-Can-Eat**



**Pancakes, Sausage, Eggs and Applesauce**

Served Continuously 5 - 7 p.m.

**TICKETS:** Adults \$10; Children (0-12) FREE

**Live music by the Fraser Street Saxtet!**

Tickets on Sale Sundays, February 8 and 15 following services,  
weekdays in the office

If you would like to volunteer to help with cooking, setup or cleanup, please sign up at  
<https://bit.ly/ShroveTuesdayPancakes2026>

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## Lenten Preview

The following is information about some of the upcoming opportunities for worship, fellowship, and learning during Lent. More information including about Holy Week and Easter Sunday will be available in our February newsletter.

## ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

Wednesday, February 18

**Holy Eucharist** offered at

7:30 a.m., 12:15 p.m., 7 p.m. (sung)

**Ashes-to-Go** offered in front of St. Andrew's

2 – 3 p.m.





## TAIZÉ PRAYER

### Wednesdays in Lent

February 25, March 4, March 18, and March 25

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.

\* We will skip March 11 due to Spring Break.



## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

### Fridays in Lent

February 27, March 6, March 13, March 20, and March 27

In person, in the Nave 5:15 p.m.

On Facebook (recorded) 7:00 p.m.



## WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN PROGRAM

### Bearing Witness

#### Wednesdays in Lent in Canterbury Hall

February 25, March 4, March 18, and March 25

6 p.m. dinner; program begins at 6:45 p.m.

As Christians we are called to bear witness to our Lord and our faith. How do we do that? That is the central theme of our Lenten program this year. On Wednesday evenings, we will explore biblical and historical examples of witnessing and ask how we can be a witness in our lives in this time. There will be a program for children as well as adults.

We will offer a soup and salad dinner at 6 p.m. catered by Elaine Meder of Webster's Bookstore Café for a suggested donation of \$10.

\* We will skip March 11 due to Spring Break.

## GROUPS, MINISTRIES, & COMMITTEES

*This is not a comprehensive listing; regularly scheduled meetings and events are included only an item has been submitted for publication. For complete and updated listings, please check your Sunday bulletin or weekly email.*

### COMPASSIONATE LIFE

Tuesday, February 5  
Tuesday, February 19  
9:30 a.m., Room 325

Women of St. Andrew's are invited to join Compassionate Life, which meets every first and third Thursday of each month, except June to August, at 9:30 a.m., in Room 325. We share conversation and coffee, support and pray with each other, reflect upon and discuss topics related to living the Christian life within the Episcopal tradition, and engage in acts of compassion for parishioners and the community. One regular act of compassion is our greeting card ministry to let people know we care about and are praying for them as they experience life's joys, challenges, and losses. We also support local non-profits.

Our meetings begin and end in prayer, as we sit in a circle. We choose prayers from the BCP and other sources. Our conversations are lively; we laugh a lot and sometimes cry; we are present for and with each other. We are not a book group, but often use books, articles, and podcasts to springboard our conversation.

Questions? CONTACT Laurel Zydney  
[laurelzemail@gmail.com](mailto:laurelzemail@gmail.com) or Darlene Nordoff  
[dnordoff737@gmail.com](mailto:dnordoff737@gmail.com).

### YARN MINISTRY

Sunday, February 8  
11:15 a.m.  
Room 324 and via Zoom

Yarn Ministry will meet February 8, 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](mailto:anne.hoag@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.  
Future meetings: March 8, April 12, May 10, and June 14.

### PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Thursday, February 12  
11:15 a.m.  
Room 324 and via Zoom

The prayer quilt members will meet on January 8 at 1:30 in room 119, downstairs in the Trost wing. We will continue working on adult aprons for residents of the memory care unit at Centre Crest.

### BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, February 24  
7 p.m., Room 324 (Library)

The Book Club will meet on Tuesday, February 24, at 7 p.m. in Room 324 to discuss Eileen Garvin's *Crow Talk*.

The book, described as "an achingly beautiful story of love, grief, friendship, and the healing power of nature in the darkest of times." has also been selected as the 2026 Centre County Reads book. As part of that program, Schlow Library will host a talk with the author on April 1. Members of the Book Club may attend as a group.

Newcomers and guests are always welcome.





## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 John Pomeroy  
2 Lou Barth  
3 Marcia Pomeroy  
4 Marie Doll  
5 Danny Mussett  
5 Tom Saiers  
5 Dennis Shea  
6 Dave Potts  
7 Patrick McNutt  
7 Janie Brown  
7 Taran Rowles  
10 Jeffrey Packard

11 Rich Marini  
11 Ford McNutt  
14 Gretchen Leathers  
14 Paula Wickland  
16 Peter Jackson  
16 Diane Irwin  
16 Kathryn MacIntosh  
19 Robert Brant  
21 Epiphany Shea  
21 Sarah Vergamini  
21 Barney Dillon  
21 Abbey Humphreys

22 Gillian Dash  
23 Lucy Cramer  
23 Lucy Rogers  
24 Marisa Ferger  
24 Eugene Shaw-Colyer  
24 Amy Pritchett  
26 Nolan Markowski  
26 Andrea McCloskey  
27 Connie Puckett

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** If you have a February 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, Sandy, Teri, Janet, Mavis, Mena, Mickey, Milly, Bob, Ann, Pam, Joan, Kelley, Eugene, Michael, Mike, Kevin, Bryan, Robert Sharree, Anne, Tim, Amy Celia, John, Isa, Zohra, Ivonne, Jordan, Ty, Laurie, Claire, Julie, Lynda, Stephen, Jane, Mary Anne, Lee, Vern, Lenore, Laurel

### Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

Zach, Christie, Matt, Eric, Andrew, Amy

## SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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