

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

April 2026

The Gifts of God

Last month I wrote about the theology behind our practice of Communion. So, this month I thought I would write something about the Church's position on children and Holy Communion. At one time in the Episcopal Church members were not admitted to Communion until they were Confirmed. When I was a child, we were following the common Roman practice of First Communion around the age of first or second grade after appropriate instruction. Today there are no age restrictions on admittance to Communion and Confirmation is no longer required. At St. Andrew's we welcome children, at their parents' discretion, to receive the Sacrament.

No longer is First Communion seen as a "rite of passage." Nor is it necessary to have an understanding of the church's teaching regarding Communion beforehand. We see Baptism as the full initiation into the common life of the Church, including Communion. Therefore, Baptism is all that is required to receive Communion. We celebrate Baptism as a mystery and we baptize infants and small children because their parents and godparents make the promises on their behalf. Communion is celebrated as a mystery too; it is beyond our full comprehension. Both sacraments can be shared with small children as long as their parents bring them to the font and the altar in faith. Regular Church attendance can do much for a small child's understanding of Communion. When they are brought up in the Church, children understand that Holy Communion is a special event. They see how the adults around them approach it with reverence. Children seem to have an inherent capacity to perceive the holy. My own daughter, who had been in church almost every Sunday of her life, began to spontaneously reach her hand forth to receive when she was about two and a half. She will never remember a time when she was not part of the Communion of the Church.

Now, instruction is an important thing for those who are capable of understanding the teaching of the church on Communion. Therefore, we offer Sunday school classes for children. These classes cover the basics of sacraments and Communion and offer the opportunity for questions to be answered.

So, what's the motivation to get confirmed then? Confirmation is not a completion of Baptism, as the withholding of Communion implies. This was made clear in the current edition (1979) of the Book of Common Prayer. It is, however, a mature, public affirmation of faith, which is expected of all adults in the Episcopal Church. The decision to be confirmed should follow proper instruction and should be made at an age when maturity is at an appropriate level to make such an important decision. More than just an affirmation of faith, Confirmation folds us into the historic, apostolic Church in a special way. The bishop, the apostolic office, lays hands on us to make us a part of the unbroken line of the faithful that traces itself back to the apostles and to Christ himself. Through Confirmation we are energized by the Holy Spirit to take on adult responsibilities and ministries in the Church.

Fr. Jeff+

TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer



February 2026

	February	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2026 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 23,476	\$ 89,293	21%	\$ 433,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 33,826	\$ 104,318	21%	\$ 493,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 49,552	\$ 104,700	17%	\$ 602,531
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (15,726)	\$ (382)		

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

VESTRY UPDATE, Beth Jones, Clerk of the Vestry



The vestry met on March 10, opening with a prayer led by Fr. Jeff. Fr. Jeff reviewed the visit with Bishop Audrey and previewed all the activities and services leading up to and including Easter Sunday. Julie Kwasnica reviewed the income/expense and savings reports for February.

The Committee for Children and Youth Formation has moved in a slightly different direction. It will continue to encompass education and formation for children and youth as in the past but will consider a more family-focused approach. Vestry approved unanimously to change the name of the committee from Children and Youth Formation to **Family Ministry Committee**.

Discussion about the future use of Trinity House continues.

Fr. Jeff closed the meeting with a prayer and benediction at 8:30 p.m.

The next meeting is on Tuesday, April 14 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 324 (library). All are invited

We Are Planning Big Things and...

We Want Your Feedback!

For the past year, our planning and development committee has been working to determine the capital needs of St. Andrew's. We know that we have some big-ticket projects in our future. The vestry has already committed to putting solar panels on our roof to generate about 75% of our electrical needs. That commitment also commits us to replacing the roof before we get the solar panels. That's two projects, but there are more things that need attention.

We are at the point where we want to engage with you, our congregation, both to communicate the known needs and to solicit your feedback and ideas. We plan to do that engagement in three ways.

1. Survey

2. Workshop

3. Focus Groups

Survey

Watch your email inbox. The survey should go out the week of April 13. This survey will give you the opportunity to tell us what you think about our buildings, how they are functioning, and even suggest renovations you'd like to see.

Workshop

The purpose of the workshop is to share information we have gathered over the past year, and to give another opportunity to share your thoughts or get any questions answered. The same workshop will be offered multiple times in different venues. The final workshop will be on Zoom and will be recorded so anyone who missed all the other opportunities can watch the recording at their convenience.

Focus Groups

The focus groups will be targeted conversations with people who are involved in particular ministries. If you are in one of the groups, you will be contacted and invited to the appropriate conversation.

Timeline

- April 15** | Surveys will be emailed, asking for completion by May 4
- April 26** | First workshop opportunity during adult forum, 9-9:45 a.m. in Canterbury Hall
- May 17** | Second workshop opportunity with potluck meal after 10:00 service
- June 8** | Third workshop opportunity on Zoom, will be recorded and available

WORSHIP

A Meal By Any Other Name

There are several ways we refer to the Lord's Supper. All the following terms refer to the same thing while emphasizing different aspects of it, and they are interchangeable.

Holy Communion—emphasizes the communion we experience with our Lord and with each other

Holy Eucharist—a Greek word, Eucharist means thanksgiving, it emphasizes our response of thankfulness to the gifts of God

The Mass—mostly associated with the Roman Catholic church, but still appropriate to be used in the Episcopal church, this term comes from the Latin dismissal *Ite, missa est* which means: Go, it is done

The Divine Liturgy—mostly associated with the Orthodox church, this term emphasizes God's special action in the service of Communion



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

FAMILY MINISTRY

Reed Dressler, Director
family@standrewsc.org

FROM THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

Thank you to everyone who donated candy for the Easter Egg Hunt following the family service. We used Canterbury Hall this year due to the wet grass. We enjoyed being together with the children as they looked for their eggs.



Adult Formation



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

Sunday, April 12

Anglican Beliefs and the Difficulty of Faith

Amy Pritchett will present an installment from Matt Whitman's *Church Unity Project* video series featuring a conversation with an Anglican Church of North America pastor.

Sunday, April 19

Exploring Food Security Through Faith

Daniel and Melanie Foster will introduce a simple framework for understanding the issue of food insecurity and relate aspects of that framework to the Community Cafe and some of their personal work.

Sunday, April 26

Planning and Development

Fr. Jeff and members of the Planning and Development Committee will offer the first of three workshop opportunities to learn about the plans for changes, repairs, and updates to our buildings and property and to share your ideas and feedback. This workshop will also be offered May 17 and June 8 (see page 3 for details.)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Poetry Contest 2026

“Bearing Witness”

Open for submissions

May 15 – July 15, 2025

Poetry Reading and Anthology Release

TBD

A graphic for the "Bearing Witness" poetry contest. It features a red header with the text "Bearing Witness" in white. Below this, in a white box, is "ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH" in red, followed by "5th Annual Poetry Contest" in large blue font. At the bottom, a blue bar contains "Coming this May" in white, and a small logo for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is on the right.

This year we are asking you to consider what it means to “bear witness” and to share those thoughts with us in a poem. An official call for submissions will be released soon including more details. As in the past, we will be awarding First and Second Prizes of \$250 and \$100 and a special \$50 prize. We will publish winning and other selected poems in a contest anthology and invite the poets to participate in a poetry reading this fall.

If you are interested in sponsoring the contest or one of the prizes, please contact Fr. Jeff or Allison Shea at office@standrewsc.org.

Friday Films

Friday, April 17
7 p.m., Canterbury Hall
(snacks begin at 6:30 p.m.)

The Tree of Life (2011)

Rated: PG-13
2h 18m



Friday Films will present *The Tree of Life* on Friday, April 17, at 7 p.m. in Canterbury Hall.

The Tree of Life is a 2011 American epic experimental coming-of-age drama written and directed by Terrence Malick. Its main cast includes Brad Pitt, Sean Penn, Hunter McCracken, Laramie Eppler, Jessica Chastain, and Tye Sheridan. The film chronicles the origins and meaning of life by way of a middle-aged man's childhood memories of his family living in 1950s Texas, interspersed with imagery of the origins of the universe and the inception of life on Earth.

The film follows the members of the O'Brien family in the 1940s–1960s and 2010 jumping between different narratives. The O'Briens appear to be a standard American middle-class suburban family. Mr. O'Brien is a successful engineer for an energy company but has enough free time to indulge his love of music. Mrs. O'Brien is a housewife with many friends in the neighborhood. They have three healthy boys, Jack, R.L., and Stevie. However, the film reveals deep cracks behind the facade, which leave Jack traumatized for decades. (*Wikipedia*)

Snacks start at 6:30, admission is free, all are welcome.

Spring Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 2
9 a.m. – noon
On the grounds of Trinity House and St. Andrew's
(snacks begin at 6:30 p.m.)

The Property Committee has scheduled a Spring Cleanup Day for Saturday, May 2, from 9 a.m. until noon. They plan to clean up the grounds around the church and Trinity House. Extra help is needed and any amount of time you can volunteer will be appreciated. If you have them, please bring a rake or leaf blower to help clean up leaves. Coffee and donuts will be provided – and it will be fun!

Any questions, please contact Michael Skvarla at mskvarla36@gmail.com.





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

Saturday, April 11
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 11, 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 \$1.7 million to fight hunger in the US over the past 5 years! Last year, our team (Centre County Knitters) raised \$2,540, placing 48th out of 385 teams. If you would like to add to this effort in 2026, you can do so by going to this link:

<https://givebutter.com/knitforfood26>

NEXT

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 11 to cheer us on!

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Breuninger or Anne Hoag.

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.

YARN MINISTRY

Sunday, April 12,
11:15 a.m. in Room 324

Our next regular meeting is Sunday, April 12, in Room 324 following the 10 a.m. service. But the day before, Saturday, April 11, is Knit for Food Day! And you're invited!

Come join the fun on Saturday between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. in Room 325 for our annual knit-a-thon to fight food insecurity. Whether you come Saturday, Sunday, or both days, bring your crochet, knitting and if you wish, a snack to share. You can make a donation to the St. Andrews/Centre County team's Knit for Food fundraiser at <https://givebutter.com/knitforfood26/centre-county-knitters-1>

The mission of Yarn Ministry is fellowship and prayerful/mindful making with our hands for others. All are welcome.

Next meeting: Sunday, May 10

COMPASSIONATE LIFE

Thursdays, April 9, and April 23 *
9:30 a.m. in Room 325

Thank you to all who attended our two meetings in March and shared your reflections, insights and personal experiences regarding our readings in *How We Learn to be Brave*. We have finished reading and discussing all the chapters and will end with a discussion of the book's epilogue at our first April meeting.

It was agreed to change our April meetings so that we don't meet on April 2, the first Thursday when we usually meet, in order to observe Maundy Thursday. **We will meet on the second and fourth Thursdays, April 9 and 23. ***

Compassionate Life is open to all women of the parish. Except for this month, we usually meet every first and third Thursday in Room 325 at 9:30 a.m.

Contact Darlene Nordoff at dnordoff737@gmail.com if you have questions or are interested.

BOOK GROUP

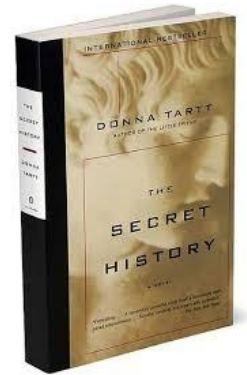
Monday, April 27
7 p.m., Room 131

The Book Group will meet Monday, April 27, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 131 to discuss *The Secret History* Donna Tartt.

The Secret History is the first novel by Donna Tartt. Published in 1992, it tells the story of a closely knit group of six **Classics** students at a small, elite liberal arts college in Vermont.

The Secret History is an inverted detective story narrated by one of the six students, Richard Pappen, who reflects years later upon the situation that led to the murder of their friend Edmund "Bunny" Corcoran. The events leading up to the murder are revealed sequentially. It has been credited with originating the dark academia literary sub-genre.

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



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

1 Dexter Cozad	10 Koraly Perez-Edgar	20 Abbie Lovisky
2 Melissa Arnett	13 Dee Vogelsong	21 Arlo Wehr
3 Philip Jenkins	15 Pam Ferguson	25 Ray Hughes
4 Susan Evans	17 Chloe Krasnansky	26 Judy Moore
5 Jamie Breuninger	17 Elaine Brown	26 Mark Hoover
6 Sue Justice	17 Lily Jackson	27 Kevin Barron
7 Scott Brown	19 Marion Schwartz	27 Madeleine Potts
9 Deb Smart	19 Jill Ascah	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY! If you have an April 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, Milly, Bob, Ann, Pam, Joan, Kelley, Eugene, Michael, Mike, Bryan, Robert, Sharree, Anne, Kevin, Lisa, Tim, Amy, Celia, John, Isa, Zohra, Ivonne, Jordan, Ty, Laurie, Claire, Julie, Lynda, Stephen, Jane, Mary Anne, Bany, Andra, Lee, Lenore, Laurel, Emma, Richard, Ian, Judith, David, Jessica, Ashley, Patricia, Rob, Mary, Teague, John, Jim, JD, Venita, Arthur, Steven, Sharon, Jim, Earl, Marcia, Robert, Lynn, Kim, Mary, Ellen, Shawn, Linsey, Kris, Will, Kathy, Gus, Susan, Christina, Tom, Bruce, Dan, Brian, Jody, Cheri, Judy, Jeff, Joseph, Stephen, Russ, Lisa, Haley, Tave, Sheila, Angie, Fay

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

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

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