

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

May 2026

## A Generational Opportunity

“The church is the people, not the building.” You’ve probably heard that statement before. It is usually deployed when a congregation gets too precious about its beautiful, or historic, or simply nostalgically viewed building. It is intended to move the focus from what is not important—a building—to what is truly important—God’s people and the mission to which they are called. And I’m all for that! However, I am now drawing your attention to our building, not to make the case that it is the most important thing, but instead to point out that it is both a powerful tool for ministry and a potential source of its own support.

As our Planning and Development (P&D) committee has done its work in the past year, we have looked at the building very closely, not just the improvements it needs, but the way we use it, too. We were able to identify 11 local, non-profit organizations with which we partner by providing space to meet and do their work. This list includes the multiple 12-step meetings we host each week, the Red Cross who holds a blood drive here two to three times per year, the Faith Centre in Bellefonte who operates a pet food pantry once a week in our undercroft, and three polling districts that hold their elections on our premises twice a year, just to name a few. One person who wrote a letter of recommendation on our behalf for our grant application to help pay for solar panels called us “a *de facto* community center.” Of course, all these organizations and their work are in addition to ministry we do as a church to support the community, such as the Community Café. I conclude from all this that our building is one of our biggest tools for ministry.

Some of the organizations we partner with pay us a nominal amount for the use of the building. These uses are by no means moneymakers, but they help to cover our expenses. There are other entities to whom we rent space. Again, we are not making tons of money with these small rentals, but they present a possible model for leveraging our building to help cover expenses and support our ministries. The potential for income is another avenue that the P&D committee is exploring, a fraught endeavor given concerns over zoning, code compliance, and tax implications.

As St. Andrew’s faces the same trends that all Christian churches are facing, a dwindling and aging congregation housed in an aging building, we must consider how we can ensure that the next generation of Episcopalians in State College will be able to meet to worship, do ministry, and function as a community of faith. The building is not the most important thing. The church can exist and even thrive without a building. However, we have received an amazing physical plant from previous generations of Episcopalians, including a church that was built in 1927 with money from all five dioceses in Pennsylvania to support ministry at what was then the Pennsylvania State College. How will we steward this valuable asset?

I am delighted to point out that we have experienced growth since the end of the pandemic. I am also acutely aware that churches around us have gone to part-time clergy—Huntingdon, Hollidaysburg, Lewistown, Philipsburg—or no clergy—Tyrone, Altoona—or even sold their building—Altoona. St. John’s in Bellefonte and St. Andrew’s are the only parishes in our convocation with full-time clergy. We buck the trends thanks to the economic and human boost our community receives from the university. As the saying goes: we should make hay while the sun shines. Now is our opportunity to pay attention to the current needs in our building, and there are many. Now is the time to do the work to secure a continued Episcopal presence and ministry in the downtown area and campus. Please support the work of the P&D committee. Please fill out the survey that was emailed last month. Please attend the workshop and potluck following the 10:00 service on Sunday, May 17. We have a once in a generation opportunity to make investments that will pay dividends for God’s kingdom in Happy Valley for decades to come. Let’s not miss this opportunity.

Fr. Jeff+

## TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer



March 2026

	March	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2026 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 46,714	\$ 136,007	31%	\$ 433,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 49,846	\$ 154,164	31%	\$ 493,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 49,599	\$ 154,298	26%	\$ 602,531
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 248	\$ (134)		

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

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



The vestry met on April 14 in room 324. Fr. Jeff opened with a prayer. He went over his rector's report. Julie Kwasnica gave the treasurer report; there was some discussion about the income/expense and savings reports. Jason McCloskey agreed to be appointed as chair of the Family Ministry Committee. Vestry was in full agreement.

The Community Café asked that parishioners remember them during the Centre Gives campaign on May 6 and 7. The CC also agreed to donate \$2500.00 to the Church to offset utility costs.

Fr. Jeff gave a PowerPoint presentation concerning the strategy surrounding the decisions about Trinity House. A **Motion** was made to insulate the attic of Trinity House and then to rent it at market price for one year starting in August while the final decision is made. The Motion passed unanimously.

The next vestry meeting is on May 12 in room 324 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

## PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

For the past year, our planning and development committee has been working to determine the capital needs of St. Andrew's. 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.

### Survey

May 4 You should have received an email with a link to the survey about our buildings. **Please respond to this survey by May 4.** Your input will help our Planning and Developments committee's efforts as they look at multiple capital projects and make plans for them. We want to hear from everyone. Despite our best efforts, it is possible some names were omitted from the mailing list. If you have not received the survey email and would like to respond, please contact the church office.

### 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 and ask questions. The same workshop will be offered multiple times in different venues.

April 26 The first workshop took place at Adult Forum on **Sunday, April 26.**

May 17 The next workshop will take place on **Sunday, May 17** following the 10 a.m. service. We will meet in Canterbury Hall for a potluck lunch (details to follow) which will be followed by the presentation.

June 8 The final workshop will be on Zoom on **Monday, June 8** at 7 p.m. This workshop 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.

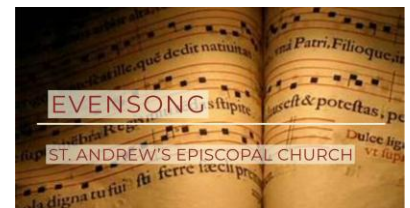
## WORSHIP

### Evensong

Sunday, May 3

5 p.m. in the church

Reception following in Room 325



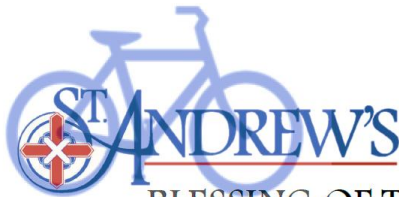
On Sunday, May 3, at 5 p.m., the Adult Choir will present a service of choral evensong. Music will include the evening canticles in F Major by George Dyson, Preces and Responses by Joanna Forbes L'Estrange and anthems by Henry Ley and John Rutter. The Rev. Dr. Kevin Lowe, rector at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Lewisburg, PA, will be the officiant. Organist Gwen Catchen will play music by Johann Pachelbel and others.

Prior to the Reformation, prayer in the early evening or late afternoon was known as the Office of Vespers, one of the eight Canonical Hours of the divine office of the Western church. However, in 1549 the Book of Common Prayer was adopted in the context of the English Reformation. Bishop Thomas Cranmer established the office of Evensong using elements taken from both Vespers and Compline, generally to be conducted in the English language, as was the case with the entire liturgy. Old English speakers translated the Latin word *vesperas* as *æfensang*, which became 'evensong' in modern English.

After a series of slight modifications, the office of Evenson took its modern form in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England, a form that is followed very closely by the whole of the Anglican and Episcopal Church throughout the world. This is the basic form used at St. Andrew's.

Evensong, like all forms of liturgical worship, has elements of drama and ritual that nourish the spiritual life of all of us. It is based entirely on elements of Holy Scripture, and it is scripted according to a long history, originating in Judaic and early Christian evening worship. Evensong is traditionally mostly sung by a choir, with the full congregation participating throughout in thoughtful prayer, allowing the music to touch us and to draw us closer to the presence of God.

A reception will follow in Room 325. The next evensong will be Sunday, October 4, at 5 p.m.



## BLESSING OF THE BIKES

**Sunday, May 3 – following 10 a.m. service  
On the Front Lawn**

Bikes (and bikers) of every kind are welcome – bicycles, tricycles, motorcycles – all will be blessed on the front lawn following our 10 a.m. service. The blessing will be followed by refreshments on the lawn and a lap around the church block for those who wish to participate.

Bring your bike and bring a friend!



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### FAMILY MINISTRY

Reed Dressler, Director [family@standrewsc.org](mailto:family@standrewsc.org)

### FROM THE CHILDREN'S PROGRAM

It's time to recognize our 2026 Graduates!

If you (or a family member) are graduating this spring, we want to feature you, your accomplishments, and your plans in our June Newsletter and on our bulletin board. Please submit a photo with a brief write-up about your degree or certification from your school and something about your summer or future plans. We would appreciate having your submission to [office@standrewsc.org](mailto:office@standrewsc.org) by May 21.

**Thank you and Congratulations!**



## May is Teacher Appreciation Month!

St. Andrew's is very grateful for those who volunteer to teach our children on Sunday mornings.



### Our Thanks to:

Robin Bastress

Pam Couch

Lauren Cozad

Kathy Dittman

Marisa Ferger

Katie Gaines

Elizabeth Hughes

Alison Jaenicke

Liz King

Leah Leidy

Andrea McCloskey

Penelope McCloskey

Meira Minard

Sarah Skvarla

And our Director, Reed Dressler

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Spring Cleanup Day

Saturday, May 2

9 a.m. – noon

On the grounds of Trinity House and St. Andrew's

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!

**CHURCH SPRING  
CLEAN-UP**

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**SATURDAY | MAY 2**

**9:00 A.M. TO NOON**

BRING GLOVES, RAKES, LEAF BLOWERS,  
AND OTHER TOOLS

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Any questions, please contact Michael Skvarla at [mskvarla36@gmail.com](mailto:mskvarla36@gmail.com).

## St. Andrew's Gardeners

### Volunteers needed.

If you are someone who enjoys spending time among the plants, please consider joining our gardeners. We need additional volunteers to weed and water the big flower bed in front of St. Andrew's for one or more weeks during the summer.

You can find the signup sheet at this link:

<https://bit.ly/FlowerBedVolunteer2026>

If you have questions or need more detailed information, please contact Betsy Llewellyn at [gericke41@aol.com](mailto:gericke41@aol.com).



## Poetry Contest 2026

### "Bearing Witness"

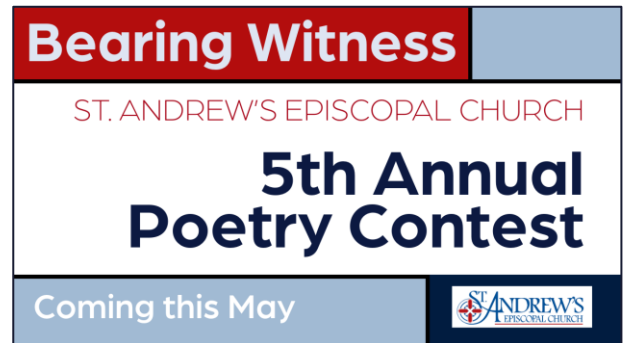
#### Open for submissions

June 1, 2026 – July 31, 2026

Submission details forthcoming

#### Poetry Reading and Anthology Release

TBD



Our 2026 poetry contest asks 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. (But you can start writing your poems now.) 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](mailto:office@standrewsc.org).

## Arts Festival Poetry Open Mic

Saturday, July 11

2 – 3:30 p.m.



This year during the Arts Festival we will celebrate the art of poetry with an open mic poetry reading on Saturday afternoon. Everyone is welcome to participate as a reader (subject to time limitations) or a listener. This event is in addition to, not a part of, our poetry contest.

More information to follow.

Everyone is invited to a

## (Pre) Pride Parade Poster Party!

Sunday, May 31

During Coffee Hour in Canterbury Hall (approx. 11 a.m.)



We are having a party for everyone at St. Andrew's to make signs and decorations to celebrate and show our support for our LBTGQ+ and larger community at the State College Pride Parade in June. Some signs will be carried in the parade and some will be used to decorate St. Andrew's.

Come to Canterbury Hall on May 31 after church during coffee hour! We will provide: table space, poster board or paper, paint and markers! We will have a craft station for all of our kids. Please help, even if you cannot be in the parade. We need lots of decorations!

All of our signs will be kept in the education office until the parade on June 13th! 🏳️‍🌈

To help us to have enough supplies, please let us know you will be making signs with us!! Thank you! 🏳️‍🌈

## State College Pride Parade

Saturday, June 13

10 a.m. – Parade starts

9:15 a.m. – gather on the front lawn at St. Andrew's



We would love to have a large group representing St. Andrew's in this year's parade. All marchers are required to have a wrist band, so we have to submit a number in advance. Watch for a sign up for marchers and information about St. Andrew's Pride t-shirts in upcoming weeks.

## Friday Films

Friday, May 15  
7 p.m., Canterbury Hall  
(snacks begin at 6:30 p.m.)

### **Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery** (2025)

Rated: PG-13  
2h 24m



**Friday Films** will show *Wake Up Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery* on Friday, May 15, at 7 p.m. in Canterbury Hall. In this third installment of the *Knives Out* series, "Detective Benoit Blanc teams up with an earnest young priest to investigate a perfectly impossible crime at a small-town church with a dark history." Starring Daniel Craig, Glen Close, and Josh O'Connor.

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

## OUTREACH

### Parishioners' Ministry

St. Andrew's Parishioners' Ministry, which provides direct help to people in need, reports that voluntary contributions have recently been sparse, while the needs we encounter continue to rise. Several times recently, we have been forced to tell partner agencies like Centre Helps that our bank balance has fallen too low to contribute even the usual small amounts to aid their clients.

Please consider adding a PM contribution to your monthly pledge amount, and thanks!

Steven Smith, for Parishioners' Ministry

### Centre Gives

Wednesday, May 6, at 8 a.m. to  
Thursday, May 7, at 8 p.m.  
Online at [centregives.org](https://centregives.org)



### Interfaith Human Services

<https://centregives.org/organizations/52-interfaith-human-services>

INTERFAITH HUMAN SERVICES (IHS) is a collaboration of 30 congregations in Centre County, PA, including St. Andrew's, who provide programs and services to low-income families in our neighborhoods. Like dozens of agencies in Centre County, IHS counts on Centre Gives for an important part of their fundraising.



**Please include Interfaith when you give to your favorite non-profits.** And watch for our hour of power, when your gift is powered up by the Centre Foundation. Thank you for helping our neighbors this way!

## Community Café

<https://centregives.org/organizations/219-community-cafe-at-st-andrew-s>

For the 7th year in a row, the Community Café at St. Andrew's will participate in **Centre Gives**, a 36-hour online giving event where the money you donate to your favorite charities will go further because of their stretch pool and the prizes that each individual charity can win. If you are completely new to our community's Centre Gives online fundraising event, you can learn more here... <https://centregives.org/>.

Once the campaign begins at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, May 6, the donation links will become active. You can go directly to the Community Café page or use the main Centre Gives page (see above) and search for "Community Café" or scroll through the list to see all of the participating organizations.

The Community Café at St Andrew's runs thanks to love – and money. The Café provides delicious well-balanced meals thanks to the parish's generous support of the facility and utilities, and on donations in food and funds. Please help us continue this hospitality by donating to the Café through Centre Gives.

## IN THE COMMUNITY

# THE CHURCH IS CHANGING. HOW WILL WE RESPOND?

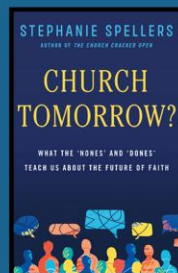
*Not just preserving the Church—  
but becoming who God is calling us to be.*

An Afternoon with  
The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers

Saturday, May 2

2-4 pm

St. Stephen's  
Episcopal Cathedral  
Harrisburg PA



2:00 PM - Gathering  
2:15 PM - Teaching with Canon Spellers  
3:30 PM - Reception & Book Signing  
4:00 PM - Optional Taizé Eucharist

At a time when many are spiritually curious but disconnected from the Church, Canon Stephanie Spellers invites us to listen deeply, reimagine boldly, and follow the Spirit into a future shaped by belonging, justice, and transformation.

Sponsored by the  
Diocese of the Susquehanna Evangelism  
Commission  
and  
St. Stephen's Episcopal Cathedral

Free event  
registration requested

**RSVP**

<https://bit.ly/4tczEfr>



**PINE HALL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PRESENTS**

# **GOSPEL NIGHT 2026**

**SUNDAY, MAY 3  
7:00 PM**

**1760 WEST COLLEGE AVE, STATE COLLEGE  
[www.pinehall.org](http://www.pinehall.org)**

## **FEATURING**

- The Penns Valley Men's Chorus
- Tuesday Night Bluegrass Jammers
- Pine Hall Church Choir
- Some old hymns & favorite sing-alongs
- A free-will offering will be taken to benefit Interfaith Human Services
- Refreshments to Follow



## 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, May 17

11:15 a.m. in Room 324

Our next regular meeting is Sunday, May 17, in Room 324 following the 10 a.m. service.

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

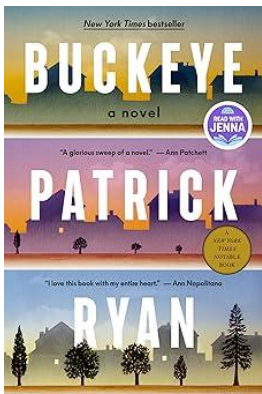
### Final meeting before summer hiatus:

Sunday, June 14

### BOOK GROUP

Monday, May 18

7 p.m., Room 131



The Book Group will meet Monday, April 27, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 131 to discuss *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan, voted Amazon’s best book of 2025 and a *New York Times* bestseller.

*Buckeye* is “a multi-generational saga chock-full of secrets, lies, regrets, deception, and drama.”

“At once sweeping and intimate, *Buckeye* is about how life even in small town America is not insulated from the effects of massive world events. Beginning with World War II and ending in the 1980s, Ryan tells us the story of the uniquely American 20th century through the eyes of these two couples who become inextricably intertwined.” (Greg Zimmerman in *The New Dork Review*)

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

### PARISH LIFE

Thank you to all on the Parish Life Committee and in the parish who donated time, money, and food items to allow us to offer quite a spectacular reception after the Easter Vigil! There were baptisms, too, and the newly baptized children were excited about the cake and the punch with sherbet! Much fun was had as Scott and Susan Strouse, Betsy Llewellyn and I decorated for the event. Thank you to Frank Barksdale who appears just when you need help! It takes a village to offer the Easter Vigil reception — organizing, decorating, food shopping and preparing, setting up and cleaning up, serving during the reception — so thankful for our St. Andrew’s village of helpers.

If you’d like to be part of this “stone soup” type of ministry, consider joining the Parish Life Committee!

Contact Darlene Nordoff if you are interested or have questions

at [dnordoff737@gmail.com](mailto:dnordoff737@gmail.com). If you’d like to help with funeral receptions,

please contact Robin Bastress at [bassandrobin@aol.com](mailto:bassandrobin@aol.com); or with Coffee

Hour, contact Scott Strouse at [scottallen1750@gmail.com](mailto:scottallen1750@gmail.com).



**An Easter Album** – thank you to Darlene Nordoff, Lauren Cozad, and Robin Bastress for the photos.

### Easter Vigil Reception



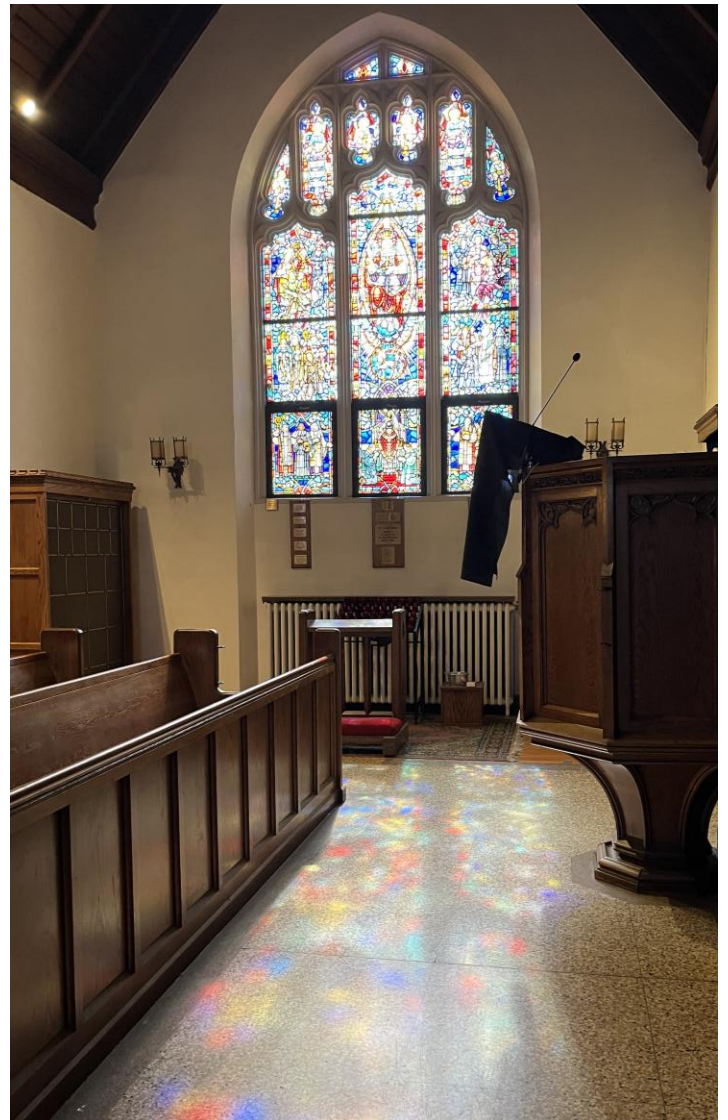
### Maundy Thursday Garden of Gethsemane



### Good Friday Ecumenical Stations of the Cross



# Behind-the-Scenes Look at Easter Vigil Preparations



Before the service.



The Processional



# Baptisms



# Easter Sunday – Alleluia!



## MAY BIRTHDAYS

2 Greg Paulsen

2 Sonya Woods

4 Greg Ruberto

8 Kevin Lowe

8 Caroline Shea

8 Gianna Nese

9 Mike Mussett

9 Elliot Johnson-Pritchett

9 David Gericke

10 Kevin McGarry

10 James LeBreton

11 George Chisholm

11 Sarah Klinetob Lowe

11 Randy Baker

13 Greg Lovisky

13 Molly Wells

13 Mavis Stapleford

13 Heather Gregory

13 Jack Bagby

14 Jenna Ruberto

14 Carol Eidsvoog-Spencer

14 Janet Engeman

14 Gretchen Heim

16 Carol McKeever

17 Genevieve Potts

18 Christie Orr

19 Dawn Ziegerer

19 John Bagby

20 JudithAnn Rule

21 Judy Mitchell

21 David Packard

22 Marcia Saiers

23 Fran Budris

24 Leah Patzkowsky

27 John de Carle

27 Rick Hoover

27 Michael Skvarla

29 Todd King

30 Barb Downs

31 Genevieve Rogers

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** If you have a May 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, Laura, Andrew, Kim, Bill, Dixie, Heather, Lucas, Holly, Rebecca, Jane, William, Walt, Elizabeth, Sheralee, Kevin

### Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

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

## SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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