

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

August/September 2026

A New Season in Family Ministry

It is with great delight that I announce that beginning on January 1 of next year the Rev. Edward "Ted" Christopher will be employed by St. Andrew's on a half-time basis with his expanded hours being devoted to Family Ministry. As you know, Ted has been working for the parish since mid-2021 on a quarter-time basis, primarily in campus ministry. Since the departure of Reed Dressler, our first director of Family Ministry, at the end of July, that position has been vacant. It will remain vacant until the end of 2026. Father Ted will take over that role and work with the newly formed Family Ministry committee. In the meantime, the committee will be taking leadership in organizing and doing this ministry. We envision a partnership between Father Ted and the committee that will continue to provide excellent oversight to our Family Ministry program.

Father Ted will continue to do campus ministry working with the student leadership of Episcopal at Penn State, the student organization. We will see him here at St. Andrew's three Sundays per month instead of the two Sundays we are used to seeing him. When here, he will spend some time in the Church School, providing support and backup to teachers. He will also be part of regular Family Ministry activities outside of Sundays. He won't be able to do everything Reed did, but in concert with the committee Father Ted will work to ensure this ministry stays strong.

You may know that Father Ted is currently the priest-in-charge at St. John's in Huntingdon. He has informed them that he will continue in that role until the end of this year. That position is one-quarter-time. So, transitioning to being half-time here won't add more hours of work to his week, but it will eliminate the travel back and forth to Huntingdon. I can assure you that Father Ted enjoyed working with the folks in Huntingdon. This opportunity was not a chance for him to get away from them but rather a chance for him to double down on ministry at St. Andrew's, the parish that raised him up for ordination.

As we go through the next few months doing Christian formation differently here, I do ask for your support and understanding as this transition will take time. I expect too that as is true with most transitions there will be dropped balls. We are doing a new ministry—Family Ministry—in a new way—led by a committee not a staff person. Reed set the committee up for success. He helped them create a structure with well-defined roles for the members and instruments to aid communication and organization. Bear with us as we go through the fall. In the new year, Father Ted will be on board in his new capacity which will be yet another transition. It is a season of change for St. Andrew's. Your prayers and support are appreciated.

Fr. Jeff+

TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer



June 2026

	June	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2026 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 30,725	\$ 248,871	57%	\$ 433,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 32,345	\$ 284,938	58%	\$ 493,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 45,024	\$ 307,896	51%	\$ 602,531
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (12,679)	\$ (22,958)		

July 2026

	July	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2026 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 30,167	\$ 279,038	64%	\$ 433,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 34,440	\$ 319,378	65%	\$ 493,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 47,930	\$ 355,827	59%	\$ 602,531
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (13,490)	\$ (36,449)		

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

VESTRY UPDATE, Vestry



July 2026

The vestry met on July 14. Fr. Jeff began the meeting with a prayer.

Fr. Jeff informed us that Trinity House will be occupied this year, beginning in August, with three Penn State students.

The vestry approved a Bylaws amendment to change in the name of the Senior Warden to the Rector's Warden and the name of the Junior Warden to the Peoples' Warden. The amendment change was passed unanimously by the vestry, without objections or abstentions.

The vestry unanimously approved the Position Description for the Assistant Rector, without objections or abstentions.

There is no vestry meeting scheduled for August. The next vestry meeting will be held on Sept. 8 in room 324 at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome.

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 **the Blessing of the Backpacks this Sunday, August 23!**

Church school starts September 13, (see page 10) and most of our groups and ministries will resume meetings and activities in September. 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 13 and throughout this newsletter for more information.)

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

Fall Kick-Off Brunch

Sunday, September 13

9:00 a.m.

Canterbury Hall

Make plans to join us on Sunday, September 13, between the two morning services at 9 a.m. in Canterbury Hall for a potluck breakfast. More details will be available soon.

Looking Back

Life slows down during the summer in State College. Many of us use this opportunity to travel or just take a break from our regular activities. At St. Andrew's, there were still many opportunities to gather for worship, fellowship, and service. In case you missed it, here are some of the things that happened this summer.

The summer started off with our participation in the Central PA Festival of the Arts. In addition to their regular Thursday meal, the Community Café offered a Hydration Station to provide free water to thirsty festival patrons and pets. Cathy Dauler offered tours of our beautiful stained-glass. Fr. Jeff hosted an open-mic poetry reading.

And then, this happened.

Water, Water Everywhere!

Alison Jaenicke

Thursday at Arts Fest was the kind of day our Hydration Station was designed for--sunny, hot, and dry. Thirsty folks mobbed the water coolers, grateful for what they said was the only free water offered on the route, and donations to Community Café flowed freely.

Friday was a completely different story—a gray, gloomy day that began with sporadic raindrops and little demand for hydration. People joked about getting their hydration from the sky. Then, around 2 p.m., the skies cracked open. The storm that followed was epic. Wind drove the heavy rain against artist



booths, whipping the white walls, and brought down huge tree limbs in the parklet. Soon, water rushed like a river down Fraser Street and flooded Memorial Field.

Most artists closed up their booths and sheltered inside them, with patrons helping to hold things in place. But a few artists situated right in front of St. Andrew's, especially those with wooden and woven goods, were hit hard by the flooding and needed to evacuate their booths. They found refuge and helping hands at St. Andrew's.



Community members helped to carry the artists' wares into the foyer and hallways of the Parish Life Center. Some of us were already sheltering in Canterbury Hall, and when we realized what was happening, we brought towels from the kitchen to help dry off the wooden art pieces and bins holding paperwork. Then an idea spontaneously emerged: let's open the doors to Canterbury Hall and set up tables to organize and dry out the art.

A trio of young Arts Fest volunteers in official orange T-shirts took charge of arranging the artist wares on tables. Robin Bastress buzzed around making sure everyone had what they needed and felt welcome and appreciated, taking photos to document the dramatic day. Meanwhile, in the wet hallways, Scott and Devin Luzier mopped up the water and set up fans to dry the slick floors. They made sure people waiting out the storm had places to sit. When the initial emergency response had passed, Marisa Ferger headed home with the wet kitchen towels to wash along with her usual Café laundry.

That afternoon, when the need to provide water for folks turned into a need to protect folks from the water, St. Andrew's felt like a place where other community members feel comfortable entering and doing their part to pull together in difficult times. The response seemed like it materialized magically. It began not with magic, though, but rather with people committed to being there, planted to serve this community, opening our doors to provide sanctuary.



Memorial Field wasn't the only victim of the Great Arts Festival Flood of 2026, however. A brave group of parishioners were tackling the task of cleaning out the undercroft when the storm waters started coming in through the doors. They soon found themselves up to their shins in water, and worse.

Underwater in the Undercroft!

Paul Hochreiter

Have you ever been down to the Undercroft of the church? It's a spooky place!

If you do not know what the undercroft of the church is, it is the original basement of the sanctuary part of the building built in 1927. Before the 1970 additions to St. Andrews, the undercroft housed Sunday School rooms, a choir rehearsal room, and the church offices. It was able to be accessed by a staircase (now blocked off) in the sacristy room near the back entrance of the sanctuary. After the addition of 1970, the rooms of the undercroft remained in use for Sunday School, and in the 1980's it served as the location of the State College Food Bank until 2007.

As organizations and groups moved to new locations, many of the rooms of the undercroft became storage rooms for Christian Ed, Parish Life, Property Committee, and many others. If you didn't know what to do with something or were afraid to get rid of it, it ended up in undercroft. Mice and other rodents had invaded the undercroft and made a mess out of things. As a result, nobody wanted to go down there.

However, all of that changed on July 10.

During the Arts Festival, almost two inches of heavy rain pounded downtown State College flooding Memorial Field and Fraser Street, subsequently flooding the undercroft when the French drain system backed up. Almost everything in the undercroft was 6 to 8 inches deep in water contaminated with mouse droppings. Anything in the water that could not be cleaned was ruined, causing quite a mess. It took almost a day for the water to recede down the drains in the floor.

Fortunately, several ministry group leaders that had items stored in the undercroft happened to be on the scene. We filled over three dumpsters worth of garbage, making a huge dent in the amount of stuff that was down there. A big shout out to **Darlene Nordoff, Robin Bastress, Sharon Rovansek, Scott and Devin Luzier, and Paul Hochreiter** for pitching in at the last minute.

Treasures were found down in the undercroft, such as some antique silver pieces that had not seen the light of day in decades.



Work continues in cleaning out the Undercroft. Just recently, the hallway by the door to the outside was cleared out of old painting debris. Paint cans over 25 years old were found solidified and rusted to the floor. One shelf is being devoted to storing old chemicals and solvents to be taken to the annual hazardous waste recycling event next spring.

One of the rooms by the furnace/boiler that you couldn't even walk through was also cleared of junk and debris. Unfortunately, several dead (and live!) mice were found. We now have monthly pest control in the rooms of the Undercroft to rid the place of vermin once and for all.

More interesting treasures were found. We found a crate of replacement slates for the original slate roof on the sanctuary. There was also a box containing all the original doorknobs and lock plates to the original doors in the undercroft.

There is much more work to be done, but progress is being made.

Editor's note: Even before the flood, the undercroft functioned as more than a graveyard for abandoned and forgotten items. It was and continues to be used by the Community Café' for food and equipment storage, housing several freezers, by the Bellefonte Faith Center Pet Pantry as a satellite distribution center, and by the State College Municipal Band for instruments and music storage. It also houses materials used by the property committee and the children and youth programs. Separating the items that needed to be kept from those that could be purged was a big part of the process, although the flood made some of those decisions for us. Special thanks to Paul Hochreiter, who is still working on this project, and everyone who helped make the undercroft a much more pleasant and practical space for those who use it.



It's still a little spooky though.

Popcorn and Prayers in the Parks

The second weekend in August offered two opportunities to gather in the park. On Friday, a group of parishioners enjoyed a night at the **ballpark** to watch the State College Spikes take on the Aberdeen IronBirds, represent St. Andrew's in their spirit wear, and enjoy all their favorite ballpark food.

Joan Bouchard wrote that she found the game to be a "mise-en-scène for interesting conversations for those not fascinated by the game of baseball." Joan enjoyed sharing her story and hearing others. She was entertained by the mascot race – "Two figures suddenly appear - What the heck are they? I don't know, they are so well-disguised that nobody can tell. Oh, it's Washington and Lincoln!" She helped keep the rain at bay by bringing her jacket and even checked in the score of the game once or twice. Joan offers this invitation, "Well, if you missed the game this year, I hope you've realized by reading this what fun it is - so come join us in 2027!"



On Sunday evening, our 5 p.m. eucharist was held in a pavilion at **Tudek Park**. Our church is beautiful, but worshipping outdoors in God's creation is pretty special, too. We had great weather and a beautiful backdrop for the service looking out across the large field at the center of the park. When the service began, a frisbee football game was in progress and by the time the picnic portion of the night began, soccer players had taken the field. We also enjoyed visiting with our treasurer, Julie Kwasnica, her husband, Tony, and their dog, Penny, who were in State College on their way home to Florida.



Healing Service and Brown Bag Bible Study

Wednesday, September 2 (and every Wednesday following)
12:15 p.m. in the church

Healing Service at the 10 o'clock service

Sunday, September 20



Before the pandemic, we had a healing service every Wednesday in the church at 12:15. It had quite a following. A little community of folks gathered each week to receive the laying on of hands and prayers for healing in addition to holy communion. But Covid changed so many things. I started doing a Noonday Prayer service on Wednesdays as a live stream on *Facebook instead. When we came back to in-person services, we never re-started the Wednesday healing service... Until now.

Starting September 2, we will have a healing service with Holy Eucharist every Wednesday at 12:15. As before the pandemic, participants will have the opportunity to have prayers for healing with the laying on of hands. A new wrinkle will be that following the healing service each week we will have a Bible study in Room 325 which will run approximately from 1:00 to 2:00. Bring a brown bag lunch if you like and we'll eat and discuss the biblical readings for the following Sunday. Get a head start on the sermon by looking ahead and learning something about the scriptures.

Not sure what a healing service is? Never been to one? That's okay. On Sunday, September 20 we will have a healing service at the 10:00 service. This is a good opportunity to be exposed to this tradition of the church if it is unfamiliar to you. It won't be exactly like the Wednesday service, which is perhaps a little simpler and informal, but it will contain the same elements. Hopefully, this experience will remove the mystery and encourage folks to join us on Wednesdays.

If you can get away over your lunch hour, I hope you will join us for a healing service on Wednesday. You may find it a blessing in the middle of the day in the middle of the week.

*Starting Wednesday, September 2, we will discontinue noonday prayer on Facebook.

Acolyte Program and Training:

We need more Acolytes! *Edited* From Building Faith

Acolyting is an essential ministry, and one that imbues our worship with beauty, solemnity, and pageantry. Acolytes support both clergy and laity, ensuring that the behind-the-scenes tasks and logistics of worship flow smoothly.

Most importantly, our acolytes, whether they are **9 or 90 years** old, are leaders in our communities, worthy of appreciation and respect. Next time you see a person who is an acolyte, make sure to thank them for their ministry!

We are planning a fall training for our older children and youth and any adults who feel the call to support this ministry. Please email Jason McCloskey, if you would like to be contacted about Acolyte Training! jam080@bucknell.edu You're never too old and only a few are too young.



Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is looking for volunteers who would be interested in serving at the 5 p.m. Sunday eucharist or the Wednesday 12:15 p.m. Healing Service that is starting on September 2.

If you are someone who regularly attends one of these services, this could be an ideal ministry for you. You would not be required to join an Altar Guild team but would learn how to set up and clean up for that service only.



If are interested or would like more information, please contact the head of the Altar Guild, Teri Smith at ssmith2124@aol.com

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) serve on the altar at our morning services on Sunday. They read the Epistle, lead the Prayers of the People, and serve as chalice bearers during communion. To be a LEM, you must receive training and be licensed by your diocese. Fr. Jeff recently held a training session and St. Andrew's has five new Lay Eucharistic Ministers. Thank you for taking on this ministry **Marisa Ferger, Beth Jones, Anthony Kwong, Don Fornwalt, and Lori McGarry!**

A Weekend With Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe

OCTOBER 16-17, 2026
BREINIGSVILLE &
ALLENTOWN

Register



Join us as we welcome the presiding bishop of The Episcopal Church, the Most Reverend Sean Rowe, for a pastoral visit to the Diocese of the Susquehanna. All members of the diocese are invited to participate in the October 16-17 weekend with Presiding Bishop Rowe. All details about this event are located on the event page on the diocesan website. Attendees can register for one or both days. **Registration is required.**

[REGISTER HERE](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/presiding-bishop-visit-of-the-episcopal-diocese-of-the-susquehanna-registration-1998257895156?aff=oddtcreator)

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/presiding-bishop-visit-of-the-episcopal-diocese-of-the-susquehanna-registration-1998257895156?aff=oddtcreator>

[EVENT PAGE](https://diosusquehanna.org/event/a-weekend-with-presiding-bishop-sean-rowe/)

<https://diosusquehanna.org/event/a-weekend-with-presiding-bishop-sean-rowe/>

Location & Events

Friday, October 16 | 3-9 p.m. | Delta Hotels by Marriott, Breinigsville

Saturday, October 17 | 9 a.m.-1 p.m. | First Presbyterian Church, Allentown

Presiding Bishop Rowe's visit will begin on Friday at Delta Hotels by Marriott in Breinigsville, just outside of Allentown. The gathering will include a ministry fair, where ministries from across the diocese can sign up to showcase their work; dinner; and a conversation between Presiding Bishop Rowe, Bishop Scanlan, and Bishop Nichols.

The visit will continue Saturday at First Presbyterian Church in Allentown. The day will include time with Presiding Bishop Rowe when he will share news from the wider church, and a service of Holy Eucharist with Presiding Bishop Rowe presiding.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Greetings from the **CHILDREN'S PROGRAM**

The nursery will be open and available during the school year, but it will be unattended. The Nursery TV is for parents/families to have access to the livestream of our 10 a.m. service. We hope that the TV will help adults in the nursery to feel welcome and still a part of our community while they are with their children in the nursery.

Kick off to the New Church School Year is September 13!

We have two programs for children and youth that meet on Sundays at 10 am:

- Story Makers meet in room 338 - ages 4 to 8 years of age
- Story Tellers meet in room 330 - ages 8 to 16 years of age

Please email: Family@standrewsc.org, if you have any questions!



Date Savers!

Blessing of the Backpacks and Devices

Sunday, August 23
On the front lawn

Bring your backpacks, work bags, and devices to church on Sunday, August 23 to receive a blessing and celebrate the start of the school year with ice cream on the front lawn following the 10 a.m. service.



Blessing of the Animals

October 4, 2026

The Feast of St. Francis is celebrated on October 4, 2026. 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.



A Word from Parishioners' Ministry of Saint Andrew's

Summer often sees a lag in donations to churches, but it does not offer much relief for people in need, as evictions, power shutoffs, and job losses go on remorselessly. Parishioners' Ministry (along with the Community Café) is one of St. Andrew's main outreach programs, supplying direct financial aid to members of our community to assist with situations such as car repossession, repair bills, medical emergencies, rent and utility payments to name a few.

Most of Parishioners' Ministry's funds come from donations. Sometimes donations are generous, and we can say "yes" to needs totaling a thousand dollars or more each month. In those months, our job is easier! But, in the late summer and earliest fall...not so much.

Please consider a donation to this ministry, not to take it away from your pledge to St Andrew's general budget, which is vital; but whatever extra you can spare to help our neighbors in need.

EDITOR'S NOTE: You can contribute to Parishioners' Ministry by

- Cash
- Check (designate PM in the memo line)
- Online at <https://onrealm.org/StAndrewsC/give/PM>

You do not have to have a Realm account to use this link. You can make a one-time donation or, as Steven suggests, can set up recurring payments to help provide a steady, predictable stream of income for PM.

(If you do have a Realm account, you can use the GIVE tab and select Parishioners' Ministry from the drop-down menu to make your donation.)

2026 STATE COLLEGE CROP HUNGER WALK

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday October 18
2- 5 p.m.



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

Friday Films

Friday, August 21

7 p.m. in Canterbury Hall

Snacks at 6:30 p.m.

***Airplane!* (1980)**

Rated PG

1h 28m

Friday Films is rounding out their summer schedule with the 1980 disaster-film parody, *Airplane!* You might learn a few phrases of Jive or how to make a piece of paper into a hat, a brooch, or a pterodactyl, but *Surely*, you will be entertained.

Fun fact: *Airplane!* is more than a guilty pleasure. In 2010, *Airplane!* was selected for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant"



Friday, September 18

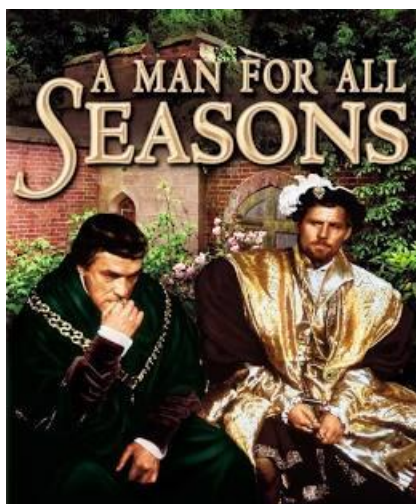
7 p.m. in Canterbury Hall

Snacks at 6:30 p.m.

***A Man for All Seasons* (1966)**

Rated PG

1h 28m



The Friday film for September takes on a slightly more serious topic.

A Man for All Seasons is a historical drama depicting the final years of Sir Thomas More, the 16th-century Lord Chancellor of England who refused both to sign a letter asking Pope Clement VII to annul Henry VIII of England's marriage to Catherine of Aragon and to take an Oath of Supremacy declaring Henry Supreme Head of the Church of England. The film stars Paul Scofield, Orson Welles, Robert Shaw, John Hurt, and Vanessa Redgrave. It won Best Picture at the 39th Academy Awards, the BAPTA Awards, and the Golden Globes.

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 3
9:30 a.m. in Room 325

All women of the parish are invited to participate in Compassionate Life. We share prayer, topic reflections and discussion, concerns and celebrations, laughter and tears, coffee and conversation, faith and fellowship. We also do acts of compassion such as our card ministry, and have supported Out of the Cold, A Soldier's Hands, a preschool or family in need, stewardship of our church, etc. We meet on the first and third Thursday of each month beginning Thursday, September 3, at 9:30 a.m., in room 325.



On Thursday, September 3, we'll catch up with each other, and enjoy a light morning snack, which will be provided. Our book for discussion and reflection will begin on September 17. At our July mid-summer meeting, we chose the book *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen* by David Brooks. Thank you to Pam Ferguson for being such a gracious host and holding the meeting at her home.

Mark your calendar to note the dates for our meetings this year. Meetings are always held in room 325 at 9:30 a.m.

2026

September 3 and 17

October 1 and 15

November 5 and 19

December 3 and 17

2027

January 7 and 21

February 4 and 18

March 4 and 18

April 1 and 15

May 6 and 20

June 3

Questions? Ask Darlene Nordoff at dnordoff737@gmail.com.

Looking forward to our first meeting of the Fall.

PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

Sunday, September 6
11:30 a.m. in Room 325

The Parish Life Committee supports the hospitality ministry of the parish through offering Coffee Hour after the 10 a.m. worship service, funeral receptions, and special events receptions such as after the Easter Vigil and after the Service of Lessons and Carols. Your help is always needed and appreciated with this "stone soup" type of ministry by donating food or beverage items; and decorating, setting up, serving, and cleaning up for special events. Many hands make light work! We get to know each other and even have fun as we work to serve the church.

Please contact Darlene Nordoff at dnordoff737@gmail.com or call/text her cell phone at (814) 883-1231 to say that you are ready to join in! This upcoming year, we are looking for folks to organize coffee hour and head up the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. Darlene can inform you of what's involved with both positions. As always, we are a team and work to support each other.

Our meeting to kick off this year will be held on Sunday, September 6, in room 131, after the 10 a.m. worship service around 11:30 a.m. Grab a beverage from coffee hour and join us; snacks will be available.

PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Thursday, September 10
11:30 a.m. in Room 324

Prayer Quilt Ministry for Fall 2026 will meet on the second Thursday of each month through to the end of December, 2026, starting with September 10 at 1:30 p.m. in room 119 in the Trost Wing. We will be constructing baptismal quilts for newborns and continuing with the construction of adult aprons for those in care facilities. All materials are supplied along with sewing machines, cutting boards and irons and boards.



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.

YARN MINISTRY

Sunday, September 13
11:15 a.m. in Room 324

All knitters and crocheters are invited to Yarn Ministry monthly meet-ups. Our next meeting is Sunday, September 13 following the main service (around 11:15 a.m.) in the library upstairs. Bring your current project to work on and a treat to share if you like.

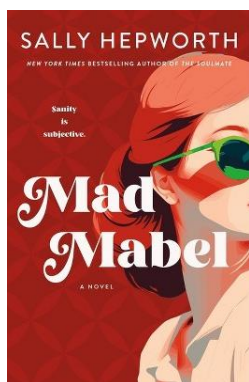


The mission of Knitting Ministry is fellowship and prayerful/mindful making with our hands for others. All are welcome. We are both parishioners and non-parishioners who knit and crochet. We meet on the second Sunday of each month, September through June, in the library. Most Sundays, there is a Zoom option for those who cannot join in person. Patterns that we know match the needs of our partner organizations can be downloaded at: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1fumOZ044LqmdDaVu5WkM6bN_qScD3d_h?usp=sharing.

Anne Hoag sends monthly emails indicating whether we're meeting in person as well as on Zoom. To join the email list, send a note to Anne at annehoag@gmail.com.

BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, September 29
7 p.m. in Room 131



The Book Group is reading *Mad Mabel* by Sally Hepworth in September. They will meet on **Tuesday** (please note day change), September 29, for discussion.

Mad Mabel is “a darkly funny mystery novel [that] follows 81-year-old Elsie Mabel Fitzpatrick, a grumpy suburban Melbourne resident who hides a massive secret: she was once Mad Mabel Waller, Australia's youngest convicted murderer. Her quiet life unravels when a neighbor dies and a chatty 7-year-old befriends her.”

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

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

October 11 **Celebration for Walter Wells and Gwen Catchen**
Following the 10 a.m. service in Canterbury Hall

October 25 **Fall Concert**
7 p.m. in the church



On October 11, we will recognize our music staff, Walter and Gwen, for their combined 95 years of service at St. Andrew's! We will celebrate with a luncheon and lots of surprises following the 10 a.m. service. Please contact Julie Breuninger or Darlene Nordoff to help with the planning.

Thanks to Fr. Ted and Walter, we will again have four choral scholars from the Penn State music department join our choir for the 2026-2027 school year. These young voices are a great addition to our choir and the relationships they form with members of our St. Andrew's community are life changing. Please look for these musicians and welcome them into the family.

Mark your calendars! At 7 p.m. on October 25, we will have our first Fall Concert to showcase our choir and our choral scholars. This is a chance to hear our musicians in a different setting and give our student singers a chance to perform on their own. It is sure to be an inspiring evening. Please come and bring your friends. It is a chance to share the talents of our wonderful artists. The concert will be followed by a light reception.

A Back-to-School Prayer from the Diocese of Central New York

The Rev. Carrie Schofield-Broadbent is the Canon for Transition Ministry & Congregational Development in the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York.

Holy God, source of wisdom and grace, you know the prayers of my heart, yet it helps me to write them anyway.

It's the beginning of the school year, God, and my heart is full of prayers.

For the students.

For the students who are beginning a new school year, give them curious minds, critical thinking skills, the ability to tell right from wrong and the courage to act with integrity. Help them to learn deep truths about this world and about people so that they may be good citizens for the good of the whole.

For the students who struggle with learning, give them patience, confidence, and grace. Help them to know the many ways that you've gifted them, even if reading, math, or memorizing don't come easy.

For the students for whom learning does come easily, help them with the gift of humility. May they all know enough challenges to keep them sharp, strong, and grateful and enough successes to keep them engaged, confident, and proud of themselves.

For the students who are lonely, hurt, unsafe, unwell, anxious or depressed. Breathe your peace and health into them; may they be supported by people who understand them and love them.

For the teachers.

For the brave souls who wake each morning at the crack of dawn to educate other people's children and love them like their own. It's a tough job, God, please keep them from growing weary and cynical. Wrap them in your love, your peace, your wisdom, and your goodness. Help them to see the many ways that their gifts inspire learning, creativity, and compassion. And, please make sure they get enough good coffee, chocolate, and support from parents and administrators to keep 'em going.

For those who support learning.

For the bus drivers, crossing guards, school safety officers, administrators and aids. Bless those who keep our children safe. For cafeteria workers, nurses, and helpers. Bless those who help our children stay healthy. For librarians, music and art teachers, counselors, therapists, chaplains, volunteers and administrators. Bless those who tend to our children's hearts and souls.

For those who grieve.

For those grieving the loss of children. This day can be so hard for them as first-day-of-school pictures populate their social media feed. Wrap them in your love and grace, Gracious God.

This is a new school year.

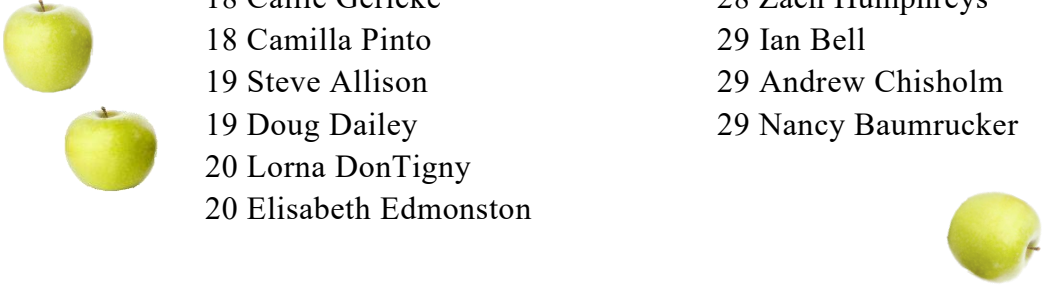
This is a new school year. May we all meet this time of year with renewed commitment to our individual callings. May we all continue to grow in wisdom, knowledge, curiosity, humility, confidence, and compassion even when we are not in school. Help us to look toward the outskirts, toward the margins for people in need of compassion and generosity. May we never stop including those who sit on the edge of the playground. May we never stop sharing our pencils and sandwiches with those in need. May we never cease to see your Spirit and goodness in each person we meet.

I pray in the name of Jesus, our great teacher, prophet and Savior. **Amen.**

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 Ted Alter	21 Frank Barksdale
2 Dave Pacchioli	17 Justin Jacobson	21 Aaron Packard
3 Peg Barksdale	18 Ron Krasnansky	23 Jason McCloskey
4 Corinne Coplan	18 Debbie Meder	23 Eli Jacobson
7 Josie Hughes	18 Paige Andrew	26 Anna Christopher
9 Colleen Kennedy	18 Thomas Hall	27 Claire Mammoser
9 Scott Thomas	18 Callie Gericke	28 Zach Humphreys
9 James Ryan	18 Camilla Pinto	29 Ian Bell
10 David Gaines	19 Steve Allison	29 Andrew Chisholm
14 Bob Ascah	19 Doug Dailey	29 Nancy Baumrucker
15 Lori Pacchioli	20 Lorna DonTigny	
16 Bob Shepherd	20 Elisabeth Edmonston	



Those for Whom We Pray

Erica, Molly, Walter, Marion, Teri, Janet, Mavis, Mena, Milly, Bob, Ann, Walt, Joan, Kelley, Eugene, Marcia, Isa, Zohra, Ivonne, Jordan, Ty, Sheralee, Kevin, Anne, Tom, Brian, Terry, Kathy, Julie, Rob, Bronnie, Jessica, Donna, Richard, Emma, Judith, Ian, Daniel, Ashley, Lisa, Wayne, Lori, Sc'Eric, Robert, Mark, Tim, Melinda, Pat, Harry, Sheryl, Stephen, Jane, Jacqui, Sipho, Howard, Claude, Stu, Dave, Elle, Emily, Roger, Arlene, Don

Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders

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

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