

*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

**January 2023**

## **Start 2023 With a Clean Slate**

It's a new year! New calendar. New beginnings. New chances to get things right. If only there was some way we could truly wipe our slate clean, to have a new beginning that makes us fresh. Of course, there is!

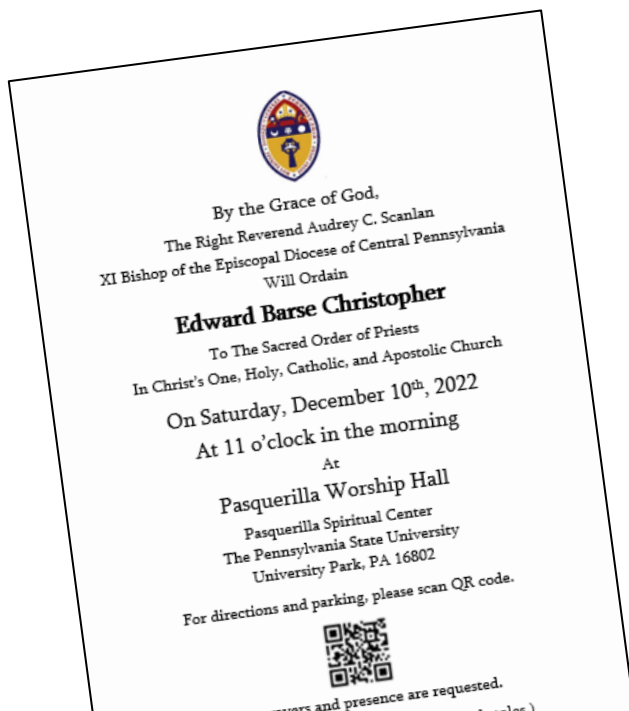
Every Sunday before we celebrate Holy Eucharist, we confess our sins. And every Sunday the priest (or bishop when present) stands up and pronounces God's forgiveness and absolution of our sins. This is a necessary component of our preparation to receive Holy Communion. If you come from a Roman Catholic background, you remember this as an individual obligation, confessing before a priest perhaps in a confessional before attending the Mass. In the Episcopal Church we keep this practice as a general confession. We all say the same words at the same time. No one is required to make private confession. However, we do offer private confession to anyone who wishes to avail themselves of its grace. We call it *Reconciliation of a Penitent* and it can be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 447 and following.

Why am I talking about confession? It's not Lent, the time when we usually talk about such things. I just wanted to take this occasion of new beginnings as an opportunity to talk about the amazing grace that we are given every week and probably never thought that much about. In our understanding of who God is and how God operates, when our sins are absolved, they are gone. It is as if they never happened. Our slate is wiped clean. We start completely new and afresh. That is a truly remarkable thing, to have one's sins removed from us as far as the east is from the west. Now, along with this divine grace of forgiveness is our obligation to amendment of life, meaning that we need to resolve to do better. When it is appropriate, and when it will not create more pain, we should try to make amends to those who have been affected by our sinful acts. God's forgiveness is not dependent on our good works, but a little contrition can go a long way in reconciling with someone we may have wronged.

As much as I want you to contemplate the pure joy of having your sins forgiven, we can't talk about that without talking about its complement. That is, as we pray, "forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Once we receive the beautiful gift of forgiveness, we are immediately challenged to offer the same to those who may have wronged us. *Wait, now you just stopped preaching and started meddling!* I'm not making this stuff up, folks. Jesus tells a wonderful parable about a slave who was forgiven a debt he could not repay with a lifetime's wages, but who failed to forgive a fellow slave a small loan he could not repay. In the story, the master throws the slave who was forgiven but failed to forgive into prison until his own debt was paid. Read: for the rest of his life. (Matthew 18:21-35).

We may be tempted to think of the obligation to forgive as a burden. I tell you it is the opposite. It may in fact be more freeing to let go of an old hurt with its anger, resentment, and hate than it is to be forgiven for our own sins. Holding onto our rage, no matter how righteous it may be, can slowly kill us. And it doesn't hurt the person with whom we are angry. I'm not talking about forgiving lightly, nor am I talking about not holding people accountable for their misdeeds. Justice is something we should all be working towards. However, there comes a point when it is just time for us to forgive another. Maybe the new year is a good time to think about forgiveness, both receiving it thankfully and offering it to others.

# The Ordination to the Priesthood of Edward Barse Christopher



You can view **Video** of the Ordination at:

<https://youtu.be/LYKsW1eHxj8>

You can find the **Order of Service** at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/14WQHfOMM2oi3By4GlmHm26ulHEDaGvO8/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/14WQHfOMM2oi3By4GlmHm26ulHEDaGvO8/view?usp=share_link)



## TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer



November 2022

	November	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2022 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 28,004	\$ 426,952	94%	\$ 453,000
Total Operating Income	\$ 30,056	\$ 456,372	95%	\$ 481,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 39,294	\$ 453,058	89%	\$ 506,519
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (9,238)	\$ 3,314		

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

## VESTRY UPDATE, Kevin Lowe, Clerk of the Vestry



December 2022

The vestry met on Tuesday, December 13, in the Parish Life Center. The vestry approved the 2023 parish budget, with some revisions from Finance Committee based on recently received pledges. The vestry is grateful for everyone's financial stewardship of the parish. The recently formed ad hoc budget committee has begun its work and will be exploring possible long-term ways to reduce church expenses and/or increase revenue and expects to deliver a report to the vestry by the end of March.

Vestry also discussed a funding plan submitted by the Parishioners' Ministry stewards. Because Parishioners' Ministry is no longer a funded line item in the parish budget, its income is unpredictable, and the stewards are exploring ways to increase the visibility of the ministry and regularize appeals for donations. In other business, Fr. Jeff's 2023 housing allowance resolution was passed, and Michele Marini was appointed chair of the Parish Life Committee.

Vestry meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month and are always open to all parishioners. The next vestry meeting will be Tuesday, January 10, at 7pm in room 324. Approved vestry minutes are always available on our website ("Clergy, Staff & Vestry" under the "About Us" tab).

## 2023 Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29

11:20 a.m. (approx.), Church

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held after the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, January 29. As we did last year, we will meet in the church after the worship service is over and after people have a brief break, approximately 11:20. We will not have a potluck, just some snacks and drinks available immediately after the service. With no competitive elections this year for vestry members or diocesan convention delegates, these nominees will be elected by acclamation during the meeting. (See profiles in this issue of the Net.) Below is a brief review of the qualifications of electors.

Electors in the parish are adult communicants in good standing. (Parish Bylaws: Article II, Section 1)

Adult = 16 years old or older

Communicant in good standing = All communicants of this Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working,



praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered communicants in good standing.

The meeting will be live streamed on Facebook. If those viewing at home have a question or a comment, they can type it into the comments or call during the meeting.

## VESTRY NOMINEES

We are pleased to announce that the following four parishioners have accepted nominations to run for the four vestry positions that will be open in January 2023: Kathy Dittmann, Daniel Foster, Rich Marini, and Sanford Schwartz. They will be elected by acclamation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29.

Their photos and bios appear below.

### KATHY DITTMANN



Kathy Dittmann was raised in Lancaster and attended St. John's Episcopal Church. She grew up participating along with her family in parish activities including Sunday School, youth group, serving as an acolyte, and attending diocesan youth conferences and work camps. Kathy has attended the diocesan convention as a youth delegate and as an adult. Kathy and her husband Jerry have been married for 38 years and have two adult children Sara and Andrew. The Dittmanns have attended St. Andrew's since their move to State College in 2000. Over the years, Kathy has volunteered with nursery, taught Sunday School, been a youth group advisor, worked in the Community Café, and property projects. She currently ushers and assists with funeral receptions.

Kathy began her professional career as a critical care registered nurse and later worked in management. She recently retired as an organizational and leader development specialist at Mount Nittany Health. Since retirement, Kathy began volunteering with CCPaSEC monitoring streams in the Centre County watersheds. In her spare time, Kathy enjoys being outdoors, cooking, reading, playing games, traveling to national parks and just being home with Jerry and their Labrador Retriever.

### DANIEL FOSTER



Daniel Foster and his wife Melanie Miller Foster have attended St. Andrews for nearly a decade, most frequently attending the evening service. Daniel has volunteered with the Community Café and assisted in developing the bylaws for the Community Café while serving on the board of directors. Daniel has also volunteered/assisted with Journey-to-Adulthood (J2A) Youth Program.

Professionally, Daniel is a faculty member in the College of Agricultural Sciences at Penn State where he is an agricultural teacher educator. In addition, he is a professional parliamentarian and believes that knowledge and skill can assist in his service. Personally, as a 7th-generation Texan, Daniel loves his dog Shiner, Willie Nelson, smoked meats, football, and playing 42!

## **RICH MARINI**



Rich has been an active member of Saint Andrews since moving to State College with his wife, Michele, and two sons, Chris and Michael, in 2004. Rich grew up in southeastern Massachusetts and has a B.S. degree in Plant & Soil Sciences from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, a M.S. in Plant & Soil Sciences from the University of Vermont, and a Ph.D. in Horticulture from Virginia Tech. After spending four years at Rutgers University, Rich and Michele returned to Blacksburg, Virginia for 19 years where Rich was the state extension tree fruit specialist. While living in Blacksburg, the entire family participated in many activities at Christ Episcopal Church and Rich was an usher and a Rite 13 leader. He was also a Cub Scout leader for five years. Rich served as Head of the Horticulture Department at Penn State and provided leadership for a department merger to form the new Plant Science Department.

While at St. Andrews, Rich was a leader for the Rite 13 group and chaperoned youth pilgrimages to New York City and New Mexico. He is also an usher and is a member of the altar guild, parish life, and is a co-trainer for the Safeguarding God's Children program. Rich was a delegate to the diocesan convention for three years and served on the St. Andrews vestry 2013 – 2016.

## **SANFORD SCHWARTZ**



St. Andrews has been our parish home since 1987, when Marion and I moved to State College with our two young children. Over the years I've been involved in various Church agencies and activities, including Vestry, Adult Education, Social Ministry, Rector Search Committee(s), Sunday Night Book Group, and Friday Night Films. I've also gained some awareness of Diocesan affairs serving on the Board of the School of Christian Studies (now the Stevenson School) and the Diocesan Standing Committee. Currently serving as eucharistic assistant, usher, treasurer of Parishioners' Ministry, and (most happily) a volunteer at the Community Café. Looking forward to working with Vestry as it faces the challenges, as well as the opportunities, of the coming years.

## **CONVENTION DELEGATE NOMINEES**

Eight parishioners have accepted nominations to run for the six convention delegate positions and two alternate delegate positions open in January 2023. They will also be elected by acclamation at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 29.

### **Delegate Nominees**

Anthony Grillo  
Carolee Grillo  
Michele Marini  
Rich Marini  
Connie Puckett  
Allison Shea

### **Alternate Nominees**

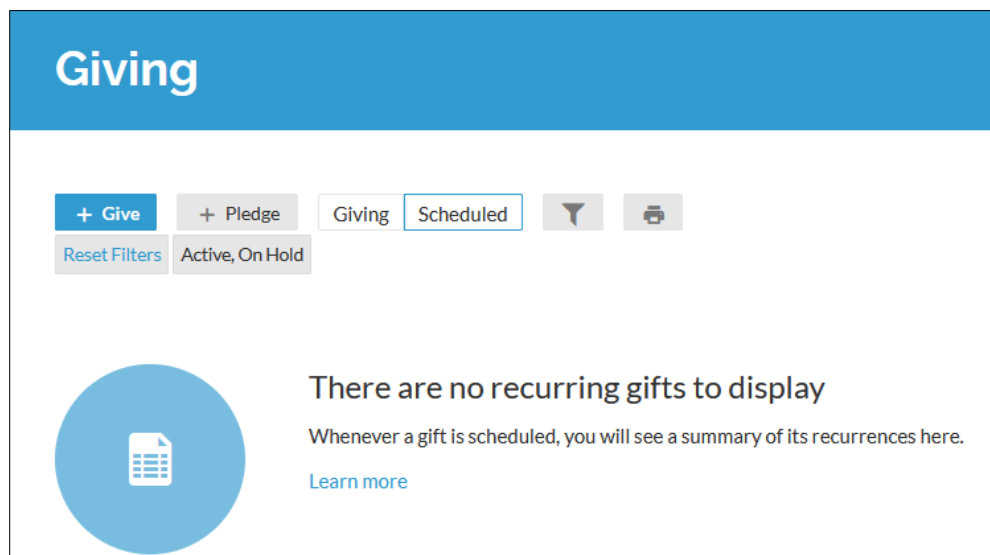
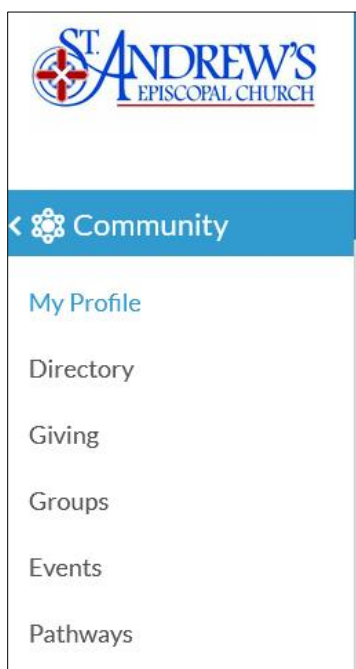
Dennis Shea  
Kelley Paulsen

## From the Financial Secretary Online Giving for 2023

Thank you to all our parishioners who pledged online. Pledging online does not automatically set up an online payment schedule, however, you would have been given the opportunity to do so when you pledged. If you do not know if you set up a payment schedule and would like to do so or would like to confirm you have set up a payment schedule, just log into Realm at <https://onrealm.org/StAndrewsC/SignIn>.

Go to your **Profile**,

click on **Giving**, then **Scheduled**.



If you have not set up scheduled giving, then you can click on the **+ Give** to set up your pledge payment or other regular payments to St. Andrews.

A screenshot of the "Giving" page showing the "How much would you like to give?" form. The header is blue with the word "Giving" in white. Below the header, there are tabs for "+ Give", "+ Pledge", "Giving", and "Scheduled". The "Giving" tab is selected. Below the tabs are buttons for "Reset Filters", "Year to date", and "Nondeductible". A large blue circle with a document icon is on the left. To its right, the text says "No giving history for the selected filters" and "Individual contributions display here. You can review and print them as receipts at any time." The form on the right has a title "How much would you like to give?". It has two sections: "Amount" with a dropdown set to "\$ 25.00" and "Fund" with a dropdown set to "Operating Pledges - 2022". Below these are buttons for "+ Another Fund", "GIVE ONCE", and "GIVE MULTIPLE TIMES". Under "GIVE MULTIPLE TIMES", there are buttons for "EVERY WEEK", "EVERY 2 WEEKS", "EVERY MONTH", "TWICE A MONTH", and "EVERY 3 MONTHS". At the bottom, there is a "Start date" dropdown set to "Today" and a "+End" button. At the very bottom are "Cancel" and "Continue" buttons.

Those who do not use Realm, but would like to set up scheduled giving can do so at St. Andrew's website under **Give** or use the following link: <https://onrealm.org/StAndrewsC/Give>

If you have questions, please contact Mary Andrew @ [financesc@standrewsc.org](mailto:financesc@standrewsc.org)



## FROM OUR CHILDREN'S PROGRAM:

### Christmas Blessings and Happy New Year 2023

Robin Bastress

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

814-404-3812

We would like to send sincere thanks to the congregation of St. Andrew's for the many blessings of this past year.

- We are grateful to our families. Thank you for sharing your children with our classes and our church.
- We are grateful to everyone who contributed to the gift card blessings this fall and for donations to Toys for Tots.
- We are grateful for our teachers and leaders for sharing their time and teaching.

Below is a collage of **December Photos** - from classroom projects, decorating cookies, the visit of St. Nicholas, and the Christmas Pageant. Thank you to everyone who helped to make our celebrations and contributions possible.

All the best for a healthy, happy, and safe 2023!











## YOUTH

Kathy Hickner

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

## Cookie Sale

That's another great cookie sale in the books! Thanks so much for everyone who baked, decorated, assembled, and purchased our cookie boxes! The current J2A group (grades 9-11) will be headed the Adirondacks June 17-23 for their pilgrimage. We are grateful for your support!





## WINTER CONTRA DANCE

Saturday, February 4

Save the Date!

Remember the great winter contra dance of 2019? We are bringing it back this year on the evening of Saturday, February 4. The dance will be for beginners, called by Bruce Young, and open to the community. Snacks provided. Put it on your calendar and tell your friends! Stay tuned for more details!



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

#### POTLUCK DINNER AND EVENING PRAYER

Friday, January 6

Dinner 5:30 p.m., Canterbury Hall

Carol Sing, 6:45 p.m., Church

Evening Prayer 7 p.m., Church

We will celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany this year by gathering for fellowship and prayer, beginning with a potluck dinner in Canterbury Hall and concluding with the service of Evening Prayer in the church. In between, we will gather in the church to sing some of our favorite Epiphany Carols before the service starts. You are welcome to one or all parts of the evening.

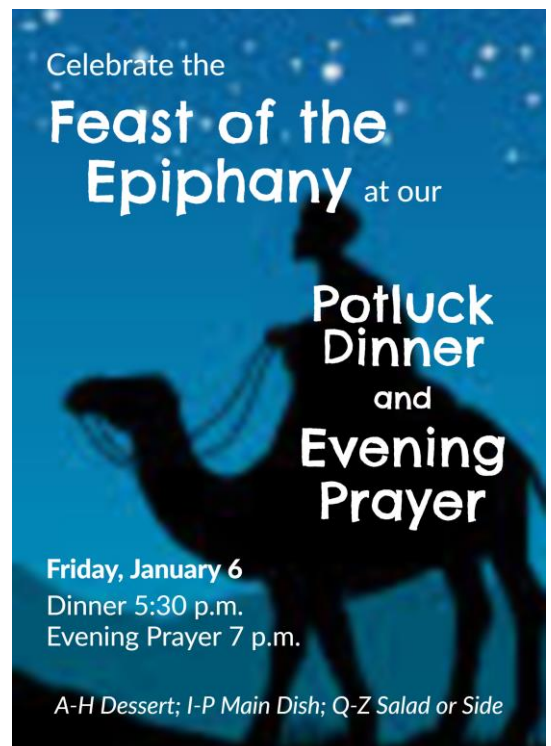
Food assignments are listed below. The Magi brought gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh; you just have to bring a casserole!

If your last name starts with

**A-H**, please bring a dessert;

**I-P**, please bring a main dish;

**Q-Z**, please bring a salad or side.



## FRIDAY FILMS

Friday, January 13, 7 p.m.

Room 325

Snacks at 6:30 p.m.

### Prince of Egypt (1998)

Rated PG

1 hours, 39 minutes



Produced by Dreamworks, this is an animated musical adaptation of the Book of Exodus that follows the life of Moses from being a prince of Egypt to his ultimate destiny to lead the Jews out of Egypt. The film features the voices of Val Kilmer as Moses and Ralph Fiennes as Rameses as well as Michelle Pfeiffer, Sandra Bullock, Jeff Goldblum, Patrick Stewart, Helen Mirren, Steve Martin, and Martin Short.

## CAFÉ TRIVIA NIGHT

Friday, February 3

Doors open 7 p.m., Contest begins 7:30

Canterbury Hall

**Start practicing now with the**  
**Random Trivia Generator!**



It's time for the 2023 edition of the Community Café's trivia contest fundraiser! Come with a team (of any size) or we can put you one. Teams will compete for bragging rights and an impressive trophy. You can purchase your ticket at the church office; \$20 per person in advance, or \$25 at the door. Your ticket includes the contest, pub food, and soft drinks. All proceeds benefit the Community Café.

## SCOUT SUNDAY

Sunday, February 5

During the 10 a.m. service

Church

The first Sunday in February is traditionally Scout Sunday, when we honor those who participate in Boy or Girl Scouts. This year we will recognize Scout Sunday on February 5 at the 10:00 service. **Theo Newton, a Tiger Scout, will be awarded the God and Me Award**, an optional award for Cub Scouts who complete a workbook on religious training according to their faith tradition. Theo completed the work with his family and reviewed it with Father Jeff.

Please plan on attending to support Theo in his Scouting trail.



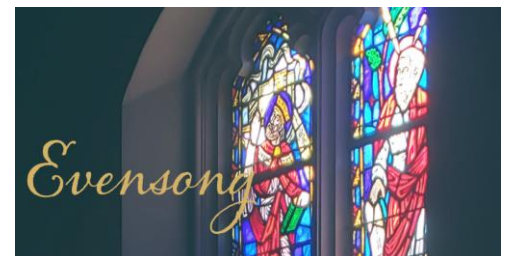
## EVENSONG

Sunday, February 5

5 p.m. in the Church

6 p.m. Reception, Room 325

Mark your calendars for the first Evensong service of the new year presented by the choir of St. Andrew's. More information regarding music selections, etc. will be forthcoming.





## OUTREACH

### INTERFAITH HUMAN SERVICES

#### THANK YOU!

Thanks to the support of our sponsors, your gifts at the Meyer Diary Wishing Well, and the generous online gifts, [IHS] can announce that we have passed last year's total! While we always treasure our supporters, we are extra grateful (if that is possible) this year as many people are facing a higher cost of living.



Your gifts and response to our needs will make a difference for our clients right here in Centre County. As some last-minute donations come in, we anticipate the final campaign results will be over \$45,000!

#### JOB OPPORTUNITY

##### Case Manager - Please Share

[Apply Here](#)

IHS is seeking a community-minded individual with a passion for protecting the vulnerable and helping low-income residents of Centre County to fill a full-time Case Manager position. The successful candidate will work in a small collaborative team environment to coordinate and stabilize clients' basic needs and finances. If you are interested,

#### A MESSAGE FROM PARISHIONERS' MINISTRY (PM)

As faithful stewards of one of St. Andrew's longest running outreach Ministries, the Parishioners' Ministry stewards will be providing the congregation with periodic newsletter updates about this Ministry's ongoing community impact. With any questions about this Ministry, please contact Wendi Keeler, Chief Steward, at keeler.wendi@gmail.com.

#### An Interview with Centre Helps



The Parishioners' Ministry stewards coordinate with local agencies like Centre Helps, Interfaith Human Services, Centre Safe, Centre Volunteers in Medicine, and the St. Vincent de Paul Society to assist with payments towards urgent expenses. For this January 2023 PM Update, we asked Elaina Seto, Basic Needs Case Manager at Centre Helps, for her perspective on St. Andrew's contributions to the community safety net.

##### **How has St. Andrew's impacted the work you are able to do?**

**ES:** St. Andrew's is a wonderful resource that we can access for our clients experiencing financial crises, which allows us to better support them. We provide our clients with information about the Thursday community dinners, and when the situation is appropriate, request funds from Parishioners' Ministries to prevent evictions, utility terminations, and other crises for our clients.

##### **How many other churches in the area contribute as we do?**

**ES:** The only other churches that also provide financial assistance to our clients include Good Shepherd Catholic Church via their Matthew 25 Committee, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Calvary Church, and University Baptist and Brethren.

**Does St. Andrew's provide support for any niche area that other churches or organizations may not?**

**ES:** St. Andrew's is flexible when our clients have needs beyond rent and utilities, such as childcare, bus tickets to shelters for the homeless, and car repairs. This flexibility has been instrumental in helping our clients avoid crises and reach goals such as gaining employment.

During the month of November, the Parishioners' Ministry fulfilled 6 requests – 5 for housing assistance and one for car repair assistance. Income to the fund was \$750 including \$500 from the Kathy Palmer Fund.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Ferguson, Anthony Grillo, Beth Jones, Wendi Keeler, Sarah Klinetob Lowe, and Steven Smith (PM Stewards) and Sandy Schwartz (PM Treasurer).term.

## 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.*

### KNITTING MINISTRY

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

Join the Knitting Ministry on Sunday, January 8, as we meet knit cozy, useful items for Knitting4Peace (News and patterns at <https://www.knitting4peace.org/>).

Please email [anne.hoag@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hoag@gmail.com) for a link if you would like to join the group by Zoom or if you have any questions.



Items made by the Knitting Ministry.

### PRAYER QUILT MINISTRY

Saturday, January 14, 12:30 p.m.  
Room 119

The Knitting Ministry will meet on Saturday, January 14, to work on our quilts and enjoy lunch, and fellowship. For more information, please contact Michele Marini.

[michelemarini@comcast.net](mailto:michelemarini@comcast.net)

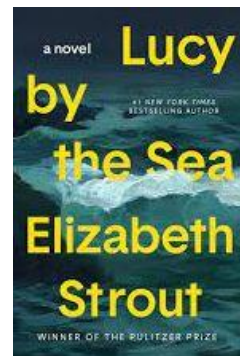
### BOOK CLUB

Tuesday, January 17, 7 p.m.  
Room 324 (Library)

The Book Group will return to the library in January to discuss *Lucy By the Sea* written by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Elizabeth Strout.

“As a panicked world goes into lockdown, Lucy Barton is uprooted from her life in Manhattan and bundled away to a small town in Maine by her ex-husband and on-again, off-again friend, William. For the next several months, it’s just Lucy, William, and their complex past together in a little house nestled against the moody, swirling sea.”

Newcomers and guess are always welcome!





# ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. ANDREW'S

✳ 2022 🦋

**Compassionate Life** met to celebrate the season at the home of Julie Kwasnica.



## Lessons and Carols

Link to service: <https://fb.watch/hOXkUJKyff/>



## Christmas Eve Worship

Christmas Eve Service Link (Family Service with Nativity): <https://fb.watch/hOXcFVCAVm/>





**Christmas Eve Service (Musical Prelude and Solemn Eucharist):** <https://fb.watch/hOW-Kl7jpJ/>



The 10 o'clock service included the traditional Choral Prelude, incense (Abraham Rovansek served as our alumni thurifer,) the nativity from the Gospel according to Luke, and the congregation singing "Silent Night" by candlelight.





**The Community Café** started a what may become a new tradition, Christmas Day dinner at St. Andrew's. Ron Rovansek and Scott Luzier are pictured here making final preparations for the meal. Many other volunteers contributed, too.





## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



1 Michelle McNutt	13 Frank Pugliese	23 Sue Stephenson
1 Nathaniel Dawson	13 Madi Christopher	23 Daniel Foster
1 Anne Ayer	13 Madeline Johnson	23 Nevaeh Farris
1 Theresa Johnson-Pritchett	13 Erica Wells	24 Gretchen Schrock-Jacobson
1 Nico Diaz	14 Alison Jaenicke	24 Susan Dawson
2 Richard Porter	15 Marshall Dawson	26 Darla Lindberg
3 Esther Wall	15 Jim Frego-Bliek	26 David Spencer
4 Jack Selzer	16 Abraham Rovanseck	26 Navy Cozad
6 Ainsley Paulsen	17 Dale Gericke	28 Mike Hickner
7 Dana Tilghman	18 Teri Smith	27 Shirley Leopold
7 Christie Alter	19 B.K. Bastress	28 Ruth Packard
8 Elisa Edgar	19 Marybeth Hoffman	29 Elaine Meder-Wilgus
9 Melanie Foster	21 Diane Dillon	30 Laurel Zydney
12 Melody Chisholm	21 Nat Hickner	31 Beth Jones

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** If you have a January 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**

Sandy, Mavis, John, Mena, Molly, Erica, Donald, Jane, Joan, Don, Stu, Beth, Joe, Laura, Jordan, Ty, Isa, Stephen, Zachary, Rob, Curtis, Kevin, Diane, Frank, Robbie, Sara, Emily, Vicki, David

### **Those in the Armed Forces and First Responders**

Zach, Christie, Sean, Matt, Eric, Andrew, Amy

## **SAINT ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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