

*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 2023**

## A Season of Growth, a Season of Ministry

It is the green season. For nearly half the year every year, our vestments and hangings in the church are green. This long season and its color always make me think of the growing season of the year, crops, and trees, and flowers all growing and showing us the lush green that surrounds us here in Centre County. The idea of growth translates into the church season as we focus in our Gospel readings on Sundays on the growing ministry of Jesus, his teachings, parables, healings, and the like. Without a clear seasonal focus, like Christmas or Easter, we can focus on these stories of Jesus' life that tell who he was, how he reacted to people in need, how he responded to people's questions. These stories tell us about the ministry of our Lord.

This is a good season for us to think about our own ministry. Don't think that God has not called you to ministry. God gives us gifts that are useful for ministry. God activates those gifts by the Holy Spirit as we respond to the needs around us and the opportunity to witness to Christ in the world. Ministry is not just what we might do in, with, and through the church. It could be something we do every day, like offer help to a coworker, or give a kind word to a cashier. It could be something we are more intentional about, like picking up trash on the side of a stretch of road, or volunteering in a local charity. I encourage you to take some time and reflect on the gifts that God has given you and how you might use them to God's glory and the benefit of God's people and creation. Maybe ask someone who knows you well to help identify your gifts for ministry. It might surprise you what someone else sees in you. Then look around for opportunities to use those gifts. God is always giving us chances to be proclaimers of the Good News through our words and our actions.

If your reflections on your gifts leave you wondering what kind of ministry they might be suitable for, I'd be happy to talk with you about it. Hopefully, we can come up with something that makes sense for you. Also consider the various ministries we practice here in the church. There are lots of opportunities to get involved in ongoing ministries here. Again, if you don't know where to start, let's talk about it. One possibility, we are currently recruiting new Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM). These are the folks who assist during a service, reading a lesson, leading prayers, helping to serve Communion. The gifts required are: comfort being in front of crowds and reading, a desire to serve and be helpful, willingness to be trained by me and licensed by the diocese, availability, and commitment to being in church to serve on a regular schedule.

Some ministries require more education or training than others. This fall we will be restarting our Sunday Adult Forums. From 9:00 to 9:45 on Sundays, we will have a class in Canterbury Hall. The topics and presenters will change. Watch parish communications for the latest. The Adult Forum was a regular part of parish life before the pandemic. We are able to re-start them now thanks to Amy Pritchett who has taken over being the forum coordinator. The forums are a great way to get involved in some ongoing Christian education/formation and to meet others. I hope you will check them out this fall. You may find that participating in the adult forum helps you identify a ministry you didn't discern before.

Fr. Jeff +

# TED Talk

For the last week, I have been serving as Chaplain to the Episcopal community at the Chautauqua Institution. This has been a tremendously fulfilling and rich experience for me – and a bit of a reunion, because in the summer of 1993 – 30 (!! ) years ago – I was a student in the summer music school at Chautauqua. Nice to return!

My assigned duties as Chaplain were to celebrate Holy Eucharist every morning (at 7:45am!!) and lead Bible Study in the Episcopal Cottage – a charming ‘boarding house’ style accommodation, where all the residents met in the living room, porch, kitchen, for conversation and fellowship. In addition to that, I participated in some activities with the other denominational chaplains at the Institution (each one has a ‘weekly’ chaplain). But beyond that, my time was my own, to immerse myself in the many offerings of week five at Chautauqua. I met Rabbi Glenn Jacob, the executive director of the New York affiliate of Interfaith Power and Light, a grassroots lobby advocating for climate justice from a faith-based perspective. I met Dr. Carla Hayden, the current Librarian of Congress, who was so gracious with her time and such an inspiring champion of the crucial role the public library plays in our democracy. I met Bishop Eugene Sutton, the current Episcopal Bishop for the Diocese of Maryland, who is senior pastor at Chautauqua, and was a good mentor to me for the week. I met so many wonderful and extraordinary people, who inspired and challenged me.

The weekly ‘theme’ was infrastructure – in all its varied forms. I chose to structure a series of five short homilies around the five vows we make as part of our Baptismal Covenant, which are a sort of ‘infrastructure’ of our life as the Church. These homilies – as part of the 7:45am Holy Eucharist – were dialogic in structure. I wanted to hear from the folks who were showing up, each of whom had good and keen insight from which I learned a great deal. I wonder if we could try such an approach with our sermons at St. Andrew’s. One thing we learned is how deeply justice and dignity suffuse these vows, this life ‘in Christ.’ We cannot gather, we cannot confess, we cannot proclaim, we cannot seek and serve, unless we love publicly – which is called justice, and unless we welcome all – which acknowledges the dignity of all. We discovered this scaffolding – this infrastructure – of our faith. And that was pretty cool!

Oh, and Betha came for part of the week. We were able to kayak and attend concerts and lectures and have good meals. She particularly loved hearing Amor Towles talk about his books, including the best-selling Lincoln Highway. Nice to just be ‘us’ for a few days.

There will be more to ‘unpack’ about this week, but for now, here are a few pictures of my time there. I hope to go back!

Ted+



### Checking in with Kevin Lowe

Greetings from your friendly neighborhood seminarian! For those of you who may not know me, I've been a member here since 2014, and St. Andrew's has been sponsoring me toward ordination to the priesthood since 2020. I'm currently entering my third and final year at Bexley Seabury Seminary. Although the seminary is in Chicago, it's a nonresidential seminary, so Sarah, Julia, and I get to still live and work here while I take classes online. The seminary gathers in Chicago a few times a year for retreats, and it's always a blessing to be together with my fellow students. I served for the past year as a student representative to the seminary's board of directors, and really enjoyed the chance to learn about the inner workings of the place!



This past year has been quite a whirlwind. On top of coursework, I've served the first year of my seminary internship with Fr. Carlos de la Torre at our companion parish St. John's in Bellefonte. (Feel free to come visit any time!) I'm serving at the altar, have helped organize some formation offerings, and have also just learned a lot by observing and shadowing Fr. Carlos. I also spent the spring semester as a chaplain intern at the Atrium at the Village at Penn State, spending time with the residents in assisted living and helping with worship services.

In June I had the opportunity to attend the Preaching Excellence Program of the Episcopal Preaching Foundation in Richmond, VA, along with other seminarians from across the Episcopal Church and the Anglican Church of Canada. It was a busy week of workshops, discussions, worship, and preaching to critique with a small group of students and a faculty mentor. It was so wonderful to spend time with other students from across the church and hear so many different styles of wonderful preaching. The Holy Spirit was moving that week!

It's been a good challenge figuring out how to take on more of a leadership role in church while also making sure we have enough time together as a family. I do miss worshipping in the pews, but Julia is learning what it's like to see me up front instead; the first time she saw me wearing vestments at St. John's, leading Stations of the Cross, she kept whispering, "Dad, are you a priest?" It's definitely a change for the family, but I'm blessed that Sarah and Julia have been so supportive of me.

Bishop Audrey has invited me to take the next step in the process and apply for ordination to the transitional diaconate in December. Please keep me (and Sarah and Julia) in your prayers as I move forward!

Peace,  
Kevin Lowe

Excerpt from an article in the Summer 2023 edition of *Kerygma*, a publication of the Episcopal Preaching Foundation.

To read the whole article, go to  
<https://www.preachingfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/202307-Kerygma-Summer-2023-web-1.pdf>

Kevin Lowe, a student at Bexley-Seabury Seminary, joins the Preaching Excellence Program from the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Kevin explains that his path to priesthood has been a winding one: he's also a stay-at-home dad, a professional drummer, and an academic historian. He writes, "Preaching for me is about bringing all of the messy realities of our lives into conversation with the God who accompanies us every step of the way."



Kevin Lowe



## Is God Calling You to Ministry?



We are looking for new **lectors** and new **Lay Eucharistic Ministers**. Lectors are those who read the lesson in church on Sunday. If you like to read and don't mind being in front of a crowd, this may be a ministry for you. Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) are people, licensed by the diocese, who assist with the worship on Sundays, or other days. They also read a lesson but may read the Prayers of the People and assist with serving Communion. In order to be a LEM there is some training required. Both opportunities to serve are fun and rewarding.

If you have any questions or are interested, speak to Father Jeff.

### TREASURER'S REPORT, Julie Kwasnica, Treasurer



June 2023

	June	Year-to-Date	% of Budget	2023 BUDGET
Parishioner Contributions *	\$ 42,043	\$ 275,501	61%	\$ 454,500
Total Operating Income	\$ 44,102	\$ 294,635	61%	\$ 485,600
Total Operating Expense	\$ 49,485	\$ 266,295	50%	\$ 535,003
Surplus (Deficit)	\$ (5,383)	\$ 28,341		

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

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



July 2023

St. Andrew's Vestry met on July 11. The vestry's primary focus was on the creation of a strategic plan for the future of St. Andrew's. Fr. Jeff, the senior warden, and the junior warden began this process by identifying two outside consultancies that specialize in working with faith-based entities. After receiving the proposals from both groups and careful, prayerful consideration, Fr. Jeff and the wardens chose to work with the Vandersall Collective. They believe that the Vandersall approach is in close harmony with St. Andrew's values.

Following this decision, another committee, made up of several vestry members and parishioners, was formed to interview and research the references from Vandersall. They met with each reference. As a group, and individually, the impressions they formed of Vandersall's work were very positive and there is a lot of enthusiasm for working with them. Each of the references had chosen to work with Vandersall Collective more than once in different contexts. A motion to hire the Vandersall Collective for strategic planning was passed unanimously by the vestry. The executive committee, made up of the rector and the wardens, will consider funding sources.

The treasurer reported that June income was good and that the stained-glass window frame painting is complete, as are the repairs from water damage in the Parish Life Center.

The Newcomers Committee put forth an idea to have small dinner group get-togethers as a way to help newcomers feel more welcome and create a more cohesive congregation. More details to come.

The next vestry meeting is on Sept. 12 in room 324 at 7 p.m. All parishioners welcome to attend.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Adult Forum

Sundays, beginning September 10  
9-9:45 a.m. in Canterbury Hall

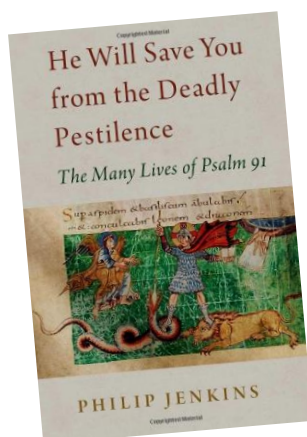


A new season of our Adult Forum will launch this fall on September 10 with our own Philip Jenkins discussing the psalms, particularly information from his book, *He Will Save You From the Deadly Pestilence: The Many Lives of Psalm 91*. (For a preview, see <https://www.amazon.com/Will-Save-You-Deadly-Pestilence/dp/0197605648>.)

With Father Jeff's assistance, we are putting together a roster of speakers that reflects our life in community. This includes speakers from within St. Andrew's including biblical scholars, musicians, seminarians, poets, clergy, delegates, and many ministries, each contributing in its own way to our communal life. In the cycle of the church year, each will have a time and place to present—Walter Wells describing the music and liturgy of the sung Evensong on the morning of day when it is to be offered; a discussion of the church budget before annual meeting; and our delegates to the convention reporting back, are among several events that we are working to schedule.

Our community also extends to our neighbors in our township, county, state, and nation (and, heck, we need not stop there). When asked 'who is my neighbor?' Jesus answered with the story of a Jew traveling, using modern day geographic names, between the north and south of Israel via a short-cut through what we now call the West Bank. Robbed, beaten, and left for dead by the side of the road, notables of his community studiously passed him by, but a Samaritan—we would now say a Palestinian—stopped and cared for him. This is just one example of Jesus's radical definition of neighbor, calling us to open our hearts. In this spirit, Jennifer Black of the PA Prison Society will speak at the forum on September 17 about the Society's work, with an invitation to visit prisoners in the two State prisons near us and the Centre County jail.

Please watch for announcements of the speakers for each week in your weekly emails, Sunday bulletins, and newsletters.



For more information or with any thoughts on these questions, please contact Amy Pritchett at ([amypilot@icloud.com](mailto:amypilot@icloud.com)).

- Are there any pragmatic obstacles to attending that we can help with? (e.g., childcare, transportation) Let us know, maybe we can help!
- Any suggestions for speakers or topics of particular interest to you?
- Are you interested in leading a forum on a Sunday?

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH

### News from our CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMS

Let's Celebrate Summer with a  
Pool Party!

#### Our 2nd Annual Pool Party for Children and Youth

Sunday, August 27, 2 p.m.

Hosted by Amy Pritchett and family

Families, teachers, and leaders are invited, too.

RSVP with this [LINK](#).



### Summer Fun & Thank you!

We loved all the summer fun and smiles we have shared!

Thank you to our families and to our teachers for all of our times together!





## Kick-off the new Church School year on September 10!

**Save the date!** Our Godly Play and Church School Classes will begin on September 10.  
We meet on the 3rd floor during the 10 a.m. service.



Email Robin: [children@standrewsc.org](mailto:children@standrewsc.org) for more information.

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

### The Nursery is OPEN all summer!

The Nursery is open for all children through August and throughout the school year for ages infant to three years old. Heather Graham, who is also our new Director of Youth will be our Nursery Attendant and Coordinator.

### Classroom Volunteers Needed

We are always in need of people to volunteer in our classrooms. We try not to ask for more than **one** Sunday a month. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

We have three Sunday morning programs: The Nursery - newborn to 3 years old, Godly Play - 3 years to 7 years old and Church School - 3rd grade to 5th grade aged children.

**Please email: [children@standrewsc.org](mailto:children@standrewsc.org) to join our team of volunteer teachers!**



## OUTREACH

### The Community Café

The Community Café held its annual pie and ice cream fundraiser this year during the Central PA Festival of the Arts. It was a great, fulfilling, and HOT time! We were especially delighted to hear from customers that they look forward to the sale every year, and many vendors start out their day with pie for breakfast. Also, for the second year in a row, we offered free water and lemonade. That was certainly brisk business with the temps and humidity soaring. We also offered shelter and free ice cream to those who were able to make it to Canterbury Hall during the rather violent storm. Despite the power outage, we had a good time and folks took up a collection in gratitude.

The sale netted \$2,627.92 after expenses. We would like to thank all who volunteered or baked pies! Special thanks go to our sexton, Scott Luzier, who worked the entirety of the sale and to Madi Christopher who was the first volunteer of the sale.





## The 3rd Annual Community Care Auction presented by:



Auction dates: September 5 to September 10

Donations needed: NOW

The Interfaith Human Services Community Care Auction is on the way and in need of great auction items. We are looking for new items, gift certificates, event tickets, timeshare accommodations, handmade items, etc. If you have an idea, call the office at 814-234-7731 and ask if it would fit.

This year's auction will be held from September 6 at 9 a.m. until September 11 at 9 p.m. Please bookmark the auction page and visit often to see the items being added. [AUCTION FRONT PAGE](#)

Sponsorship opportunities still exist as well. Call or email for more information.

[info@interfaithhumanservices.org](mailto:info@interfaithhumanservices.org)

## UPCOMING

### BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Sunday, August 20



Following the 10 a.m. service  
In front of the church

Everyone is invited to bring their backpacks, laptops, briefcases or school and work bags of any kind to receive a blessing for the start of the new school year. This is a special reminder that God is with us as we go about the business of our days, and an important boost of courage as we enter new school and work routines.

The blessings will take place after the service in front of St. Andrew's.



## ICE CREAM SOCIAL

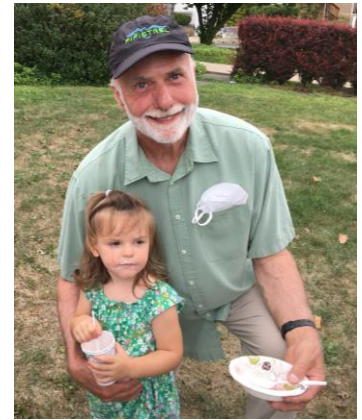
Sunday, August 20

11:20 a.m. on the front lawn

### Here's the Scoop!

You're Invited to an Ice Cream Social on the Lawn!

Come celebrate the end of summer and the start of the new school year with a cold scoop or two of ice cream after the 10 a.m. service and the Blessing of the Backpacks on August 20.



## PICNIC AND PRAYER IN THE PARK

Sunday, August 20

5 p.m. at Tudek Park

400 Herman Drive, State College



### TOP TEN REASONS TO ATTEND

## PICNIC AND PRAYER IN THE PARK

Sunday, August 20

5 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Pot Luck Picnic

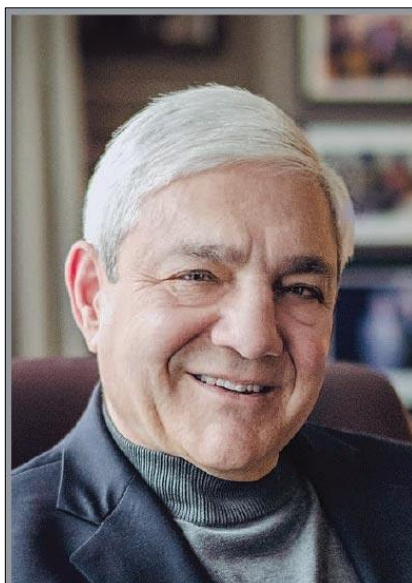
Tudek Park, Pavilion #1

10. You can work on your tan while you worship.
9. The park at 5 p.m. will be cooler than the church at 10 a.m. and you can sleep in on Sunday morning.
8. Dogs have been known to attend.
7. Chips and coleslaw offered in addition to bread and wine.
6. Picnic tables are as comfortable as pews.
5. More violins and guitars than at any other service.
4. Shorts and a tee shirt for church? Why not?!
3. Same liturgy you know and love, but in a beautiful, natural setting.
2. Playground equipment close by in case the sermon lasts too long.
- ...and the number one reason you should attend,
1. You will enjoy it!

### From St. Mark's, Lewistown

The Rev. John T. Harwood

On Sunday, August 6 at 2 p.m., Dr. Spanier will be speaking at St. Mark's about his new book, *In the Lions' Den: The Penn State Scandal and a Rush to Judgment*. Join us for a conversation with President Spanier and refreshments afterwards.



On Sunday, August 6, at 2PM

St. Mark's will feature

"A Conversation with  
Graham Spanier."

21 South Main Street,  
Lewistown, PA

*A  
First Sunday  
Conversation  
with*

Graham Spanier



*All are welcome*

## 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.*

### KNITTING MINISTRY

The next scheduled meeting of the Knitting Ministry is Sunday, September 10 following the 10 a.m. service.

For more information contact Anne Hoag, [anne.hoag@gmail.com](mailto:anne.hoag@gmail.com)



### BOOK GROUP

Tuesday, September 26  
7 p.m., Room 324

The St. Andrew's Book Group will meet will not meet in August. With the September selection weighing in at approximately 820 pages (original 1978 release) or 1100 pages (1990 uncut re-release,) you are going to need the extra time!

"Stephen King's *The Stand* is an apocalyptic vision of a world blasted by plague and tangled in an elemental struggle between good and evil remains as riveting—and eerily plausible—as when it was first published." A patient escapes from a biological testing facility, unknowingly carrying a deadly weapon: a mutated strain of super-flu that will wipe out 99 percent of the world's population within a few weeks. Those who remain are scared, bewildered, and in need of a leader. Two emerge—Mother Abigail, the benevolent 108-year-old woman who urges them to build a peaceful community in Boulder, Colorado; and Randall Flagg, the nefarious "Dark Man," who delights in chaos and violence. As the dark man and the peaceful woman gather power, the survivors will have to choose between them—and ultimately decide the fate of all humanity." (Penguin Random House)

Newcomers and visitors are always welcome!





## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** If you have an August 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.

1 Duncan Loviscky	7 Kendall Mainzer	17 Sharon Rovansek
3 Betty Bechtel	13 Steve Hopkins	17 Andrea de Carle
3 Garrett Mitchell	13 Darla Houseman	20 Liz King
3 Rebecca Jackson	13 Joan Bouchard	26 Milly Hopkins
4 Paul Hochreiter	14 Zach Paulsen	27 Thomas Valentine
4 Bob Ayer	15 Wendi Keeler	30 Melinda Pugliese
5 Dick Meyer	15 Ellie Harper	30 Gregg Rogers
6 Sally Marley	16 Bryson Christopher	
6 Tyler King	17 Walter Wells	

**Happy 101<sup>st</sup> Birthday to Garrett “Mitch” Mitchell, August 3.**

### **Those for Whom We Pray**

Sandy, Mavis, Erica, Garrett, Kevin, Diane, Frank, Sarah, Emily, David, Vicki, Donna, Robbie, Joan, Don, Jane, Garrett, Jessica, Dennis, Bryan, Michael, Joanne, Robert, Harry, Tara, Todd, Maddy, Joan, Ty, Jordan, Isa, Ivonne, Meira, Joe, Chuck, Kevin, Molly, Alex, Tsültrim, Gordon, Alma, Dave, Victor, Amy, Magen, Tim, Amanda, Kaitlyn, Kathryn, Jack, Elle, Roger, Smitty, Ulicia, Laura, Robin, Beti, Luis, Said, Anne, Tommy, Will, Andy, Tom, Barbara, Linda, Robin, Bev, Janet, Erin, Krista, Karen, Moira, Matthew, Julian, Bekki, Scott, Teri

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

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

## **SAINT ANDREW’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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