



The E-Bagpiper



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Suffolk, Virginia

December 2019 & January 2020

CHRISTMAS GIFTS



Please help St. Andrew provide Christmas gifts for children and seniors, with recipients' names provided by the Suffolk Salvation Army. Angel tags (for children) & Christmas Tree tags (for seniors), and empty stockings (for children) are available in the Atrium for you to make a selection.

Please return the unwrapped gifts together with their Angel Tree and Christmas Tree tags. The age of the recipient of the stockings (up to age 12), as well as the items you fill it with, are your choice. Follow the directions stapled to the empty stockings.



Also, you are encouraged to help decorate our Mitten Tree with hats, scarves, mittens and socks for adults and children. Our Youth Sunday school classes are putting together Hygiene Kits for teenagers; donations of toothbrushes & travel-size toothpaste, combs/brushes, travel-sized deodorant, travel-size shampoo/conditioner, disposable razors, and tissue pocket packs are needed.

All gifts, filled stockings, and Mitten Tree & Hygiene Kit items are **due by December 9.**

Special Note: We would greatly appreciate help delivering all donations to the Salvation Army on Friday, December 13. Contact **Karen Topping** at ktopping@trinitynn.com.



CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT ST. ANDREW

Friday, December 6; 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Bring your family and invite your friends for a fun evening of Christmas carols and fellowship at St. Andrew sponsored by the Welcome & Care Committee. Bring a dozen of your favorite cookies to share and enjoy hot chocolate and warm cider. Please sign up at the Kiosk in the Atrium.

2019 CHRISTMAS SEASON

Mark your calendar with the following dates

Sunday, Dec 1 – First Sunday of Advent; **NO** Sunday School; 10:00 Worship Service with Communion

Sunday, Dec 8 – Second Sunday of Advent; 9:00 Sunday School; & 10:00 Worship Service

Sunday, Dec 8 – 3:00 Women's Outing to Ebenezer United Methodist Church Christmas Concert (details on page 7)

Mon, Dec 9 – ALL service project items due

Tuesday, Dec 10 – Ladies' Lunch Out at Smithfield Station

Fri, Dec 13 – Deliver mission gifts to Salvation Army in Suffolk, delivery help needed

Sunday, Dec 15 – Third Sunday of Advent; 9:00 Sunday School; & 10:00 Worship Service

Sun, Dec 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent; Joy Offering Received; 9:00 Sunday School, 10:00 Christmas Cantata

Christmas Eve Services

Tue, Dec 24 at 4:00 **Family Service**

Tue, Dec 24 at 7:00 – **Candlelight Communion**

Service with Chancel Choir and Celebration Bell Choir

Sun, Dec 29 – 10:00 Worship Service; **NO** Sunday school

LADIES' LUNCH OUT IN DECEMBER

All ladies are invited to meet for lunch at Smithfield Station, 415 S. Church St, Smithfield on **Tuesday, December 10 at 12:30 p.m.** Invite your friends to join us for Christian fellowship and a nice meal. Please sign up at the Kiosk in the Atrium by **Friday, December 6** so a reservation can be made with the restaurant. Contact **Martha Shephard** if you have questions.



This event is sponsored by St. Andrew Presbyterian Women.

WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

December 2019: Worship at 10:00
January 2020: Worship at 9:00 & 11:00
(Check the December & January calendars for meeting dates and times for Sunday School.)

IN THE BEGINNING



"In the Beginning", written by Judy Bander, is a continuing column, which tells the history of our church. Included are facts, stories, and "things remembered" by those who helped establish St. Andrew Presbyterian Church.

New Minister: Dr. Roger Jackle (1991)

The Tartan and the Thirty Something Fellowship Groups enjoyed an evening of good food, entertainment and fellowship at the Fort Monroe Office's Club on April 26, 1991.

On May 19, after the worship service, a Congregational Meeting was held to vote on the Pastor Nominating Committee's (PNC) submission for our new pastor. The PNC was composed of **H. L. (Bo) Bohon¹, Helen Klaas*, Evelyn Jones, James (Jim) Parker, Vivian Smith, Helena Thompson¹, and Edward (Ted) Ulrich***.

Dr. Roger Jackle* was unanimously selected to become our minister. He had been a research engineer in the textile industry in North Carolina for twenty years before he entered the ministry. Dr. Jackle arrived in mid-July; his first sermon was on July 28. August became meet the pastor month with small groups of members in various homes. Some of the members sponsoring the meetings included: **Kevin & Amy Gray, Ben & Elaine Livermon, Whit & Liza Tucker, Kenny & Beth Garrett¹ and Pete* & Evelyn Jones.**

Midge Gray, Bill George and Jerry Varnell joined the church during this time.

**deceased, 1 moved away*

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

Our fourth and last Special Offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for 2019 will be received at St. Andrew on Sunday, December 22. This offering provides financial assistance to individuals and families who have dedicated their lives to the church (50% = **Giving Back**), and supports racial ethnic leadership development and education for students attending Presbyterian-related schools and colleges (50% = **Providing Opportunities**). Please give generously as you are able in support of those who have faithfully served and those who are preparing to do so.

Temple Tips

"I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble."

~ Proverbs 4:11-12

Whether you are getting things down with use of a ladder, dealing with ice and snow, moving heavy objects, tripping over things on the ground, or just shuffling around, you can accidentally fall. Injury from a fall can be devastating, causing short-term or long-term problems. You can end up with sore or sprained muscles, heavy bruising, torn ligaments or tendons, nerve damage, broken bones, or bleeding into the brain. Injury can be made worse and be complicated with other medical problems if you are not able to get up from the fall and stay down for an extended period.

Though far more common in those over the age of 65, injury caused by falling can happen to any of us. Recovering will be a slow process with possible medical interventions of diagnostic testing, surgery, medications and physical therapy! At home, church, or work you can reduce the risk of falling by removing/fixing things you could trip over, keeping walkways clear of clutter and well lit, using nonskid rugs, installing (and using) sturdy handrails on stairs/steps and grab handles in the bathroom, using assistive devices (walkers, etc.) properly, not carrying too many things at the same time, using ladder/step stools correctly, and preparing walkways in event of snow/ice.

If we are proactive and keep safety first, wherever we are, we can reduce the incidence of falls. Don't let your pride keep you from using common sense. Many thanks to first responders and the medical team who help us get back on our feet again; they are angels of mercy!

~Amy Gray, RN; Parish Nurse



**Please remember in prayer
the family and friends of**

Robert Donnell, who passed away on Nov 16, 2019 at the age of 91. His wife, Mary Ann, passed away in October.



Dear Friends,

*“The people who walk in darkness
have seen a great light.”*

In the brisk, evening cold that settles in at this time of year, one becomes more aware of the darkness as it descends ever earlier with each passing day. And with the darkness there comes a hush.....a sense of watching, waiting and anticipating what lies ahead. Advent is such a season of waiting through the darkness for something altogether wonderful – Christmas, and the message that pierces the darkness of our lives and the life of the world, **GOD WITH US.**

Whether it hearkens back to childhood or is born of our sense of the darkness that seems to be growing ever deeper, we find ourselves expectant and hopeful.

What are we waiting for? Into a world that is chaotic and frightening, where people still walk in darkness, we wait for the light of Christ to shine. We wait for the day to dawn when violence and hate will be exchanged for peace and love. We trust that one day justice will be done and the message of the prophets before us will come to pass that “all will be well.”

Advent is the season when we join with people through the ages and in all places, in singing about, praying for, and speaking of the light of the love of God to shine into the darkness of this world.

And God does not disappoint. For in the birth of Jesus we are reminded that God chooses to come among us. God chooses to enter the mess, the chaos and the pain of life. God chooses to come into the deepest wounds that puncture life’s vitality, into the darkest corners of our hearts. God chooses to come over and again, to enter our lives and to transform the darkness by the brilliant light of His love.

Until the time when the darkness of this world is truly overcome, we watch, we pray and we share in the work of Christ by showing compassion, acting in love, and making peace.

May the peace of Christ be with you this Advent season. May the love of Christ inspire us and may the light of Christ shine in and through our lives.

Blessings and peace to you all,
Pastor Gillian

Joint December Meeting for Deacons and Elders

There will be a Joint Meeting of Deacons and Elders on December 19 from 6:30 – 8:30 at the home of Pastor Gillian. This will be a potluck meal; Deacons are asked to bring dessert and Elders to bring appetizers.

Would you like to join St. Andrew?

Anyone wishing to become a member of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is invited to contact **Pastor Gillian** at pastorgillian1885@gmail.com or contact the church office (757) 238-3550 or standrew@standrewpres.us. Pastor Gillian’s office hours are Tuesday and Thursday mornings beginning at 9:00 a.m.

SOUP KITS FOR CHRISTMAS GIFTS

Do you need a delicious and practical gift for your babysitter, your hairdresser, the mail carrier, your child’s teacher, or anyone else you’d like to show a little kindness? Try one of CrossWalk’s soup kits available in the Atrium.

CrossWalk students will put together two kinds of soup kits:

- A 5-Bean soup, which is as pretty as it is delicious and requires only a can of tomatoes and water added to the mix to complete the meal.
- A tri-colored curly pasta soup, which takes only a can of tomatoes, water, and ten minutes from stovetop to table.

A suggested contribution for each soup kit is \$10. All proceeds will go to Mission: Possible projects in the summer of 2020.

*~Beth Lyon-Suhring,
Director of Christian Education*

CAREGIVERS SUPPORT GROUP

St. Andrew offers a bi-weekly caregivers support group that usually meets on the first and third Mondays of each month from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in Room 202 on the second floor of the education building.

One of the most difficult parts of caregiving is the sense of isolation the care provider experiences. We hope that our caregivers support group will help to counteract that isolation by offering time to share with others experiencing the same challenges, providing information from elder care specialists, and learning together from resources on the topic.

The Caregiver Support Group will meet on December 2 & 16, 2019 and January 6, 2020. Meetings will provide a safe and confidential space for learning and sharing.

Please contact **Beth Lyon-Suhring** at lyonsuhring@hotmail.com or by calling the church at 238-3550.

STAFF BONUS

The following letter and an envelope have also been placed in each member's church mailbox.

Dear Members of St. Andrew,

As Congregational Care Committee Elders, we are writing to ask your help with giving a well-deserved holiday bonus to our staff. Throughout the year our Pastor, Christian Education Director, Music Director, Secretary, Bookkeeper, Keyboardist, Pre-School Directors, Youth Director, Housekeeper, and Nursery Workers enrich our church in many meaningful ways.

With the Christmas season fast approaching, our thoughts turn to ways in which we can reward their hard work and diligence. By church members donating money for the Christmas bonuses, money will not have to be taken from the operational budget, and the church is able to appropriately thank the staff.

The Session has approved an offering to be taken to enable the members to show their appreciation. Please place your offering in the offering plate by **Sunday, Dec. 8th**, or mail it to the office to be received no later than **Wednesday, Dec. 11th** with "Christmas Bonus" written in the memo line of your check. (Church mailing address: St. Andrew Presbyterian Church; Attn: Whit Tucker; 1885 Bridge Road, Suffolk, VA 23433)

As always, only the Receiving Treasurer will have knowledge of individual amounts given. The entire amount will then be distributed according to a formula directly linked to each staff member's base salary.

Please thoughtfully and prayerfully consider your offering. If you have questions, please see any member of the Congregational Care Committee.

Sincerely,
The Congregational Care Committee

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

October 2019 Meeting

Financial Update: Overall the church is in good financial health, including endowments. We are currently running slightly under plan for Income but are keeping expenses below plan so overall are favorable to budget YTD.

Worship schedule: Session voted to move back to two worship services (Contemporary at 9:00 a.m. and Traditional at 11:00 a.m.) starting in January of 2020, contingent on Pastor Gillian's being able to complete those duties as she continues to recover.

Paul Reed Fund: Session voted to approve \$5,000 from the Paul Reed Fund to be spent on Hurricane Dorian Relief efforts (\$2,500 going to Presbyterian Disaster Relief and \$2,500 going to Water Mission International). Session also voted to approve spending \$3,000 from the Paul Reed Fund on the Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk (CAPS) Bill Assistance Program.

Volunteer of the Year: Session voted to formally recognize **Carol Davis** as St. Andrew Church's Volunteer of the Year during the Congregational Meeting held on October 27th, 2019.

~Curtis Corl, Clerk of Session

CAROL DAVIS

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

This year the Welcome & Care Committee has chosen to recognize **Carol Davis** as our Volunteer of the Year. Although Carol has only been a member of St. Andrew since 2012, when she and her husband, Bill,

joined, she jumped in full speed and has not shown any signs of slowing down.

After graduating college, Carol taught first and second grade for four years and then took a couple of years off to start a family and raise two beautiful daughters. She then returned to teaching as a middle school math teacher for 27 years in upstate New York before retiring. While visiting their children and grandchildren in Virginia, she and Bill liked the area and decided to make Suffolk their new home.

Carol accepted the position of Fellowship Deacon in 2015. Although she is no longer serving as a Deacon, Carol remains active with the Fellowship Committee. As an active member on the Finance Committee, Carol used her fellowship skills and helped coordinate dedication Sunday luncheons in 2018 and 2019. Carol also volunteers with preschool, collects money for Kirk Night dinners, attends Rise Against Hunger Meal Packing events, and represents St. Andrew with our nursing home bingo program.

Carol enjoys helping her daughters, Dr. Pamela Stark, Ed.D. now in Wisconsin, and Kimberly Gorey, an engineer now in New York, when duty calls for grandma to baby sit for her 5 grandchildren, dog sit or house sit. In her spare time, Carol enjoys physical activities at the local YMCA, reading, sudoku puzzles, playing bunco, monthly lunch outings with her friends, and traveling.

Carol enjoys her affiliation with St. Andrew Church and is looking forward to continuing her volunteer service here.

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Finance Committee Report

Through October 31, 2019

	<u>October</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>2019 Budget</u>
Income	\$43,219	\$427,082	\$439,857	\$527,828
Expenses	\$41,359	\$413,795	\$438,984	\$527,054
NET	\$1,860	\$13,287		

Assets/Liabilities

Bank Assets	\$237,554	<u>Mortgage</u>	
Liabilities	\$133,815	Balance	\$624,442
TOTAL	\$103,739	Monthly Payment	\$5,200

Happy to report we're holding steady! This time last year we had slipped into a deficit (which we pulled out of by the end of the year), so we're looking to finish stronger in 2019. There is still a concern that pledge income is below what was budgeted by about 20K, but as long as expenses remain under budget to match it's not great cause for worry. Nevertheless, expenses do tend to increase at the end of the year, so please make sure your 2019 contributions are at least matching what you pledged.

As for 2020, we are very close to meeting our budget goal. If you haven't pledged yet, please do so ASAP so we can hit the ground running on January 1, 2020

~Tom Seymour, Finance & Stewardship Committee

Endowment Fund (As of October 31, 2019)

General Fund	\$325,728.15
Missions	<u>\$156,707.84</u>
Total	\$482,435.99

~Clyde Harper, Endowment Fund Committee

2019 CHECK SIGNING NOTICE

ALL DEACONS/ELDERS/COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Please submit your final 2019 expenditure vouchers on time to ensure that all 2019 expenditures are accounted for, and that budgets are properly debited so that there is no carryover of budgets. Check signing dates are below, with the last date representing an off-schedule date in advance of the Christmas/New Year holidays:

Tuesday, November 26

Monday, December 9

Friday, December 20 (off-cycle)

Vouchers submitted after December 20 will not be processed/reimbursed until January 2020. In addition, those late vouchers will be debited against the 2020 budget.

~Clyde Harper, Disbursing Treasurer

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for calendar year 2020 will be distributed in the church mailboxes in mid-December to both pledged and active member households, except those that exclusively use automatic bank generated checks and those that have not used the envelopes that they were issued for 2019. Frequent donor non-member

households, that have not previously requested envelopes, will also be provided envelopes upon request, as will youth and children, who have pledged or have a history of donating. If you either know that you will not use the offering envelopes or want envelopes for transactions of cash or traditional checking, please notify me by **December 8**, so that I can modify the initial distribution accordingly. Those who have opted out of receiving envelopes in the past need not notify me again. If I have been overzealous in reducing the number of offering envelopes distributed, additional boxes will be provided upon request. Whether you receive offering envelopes or not, all identifiable donations and payments are recorded, and all tax-deductible transactions will appear on your report of contributions.

If you will be an active donor in 2020, use of the offering envelopes to save my time and help me maintain accurate records of your donations, even if your donations are not weekly, is strongly encouraged. Using a **single check** for more than one donation category is also encouraged. However, as I am unable to consistently remember the details of over one hundred pledges, please identify the designation/distribution of all donations, either on the envelope or on the memo line of your check.

~Whit Tucker, Receiving Treasurer

NOTES FROM ST. ANDREW'S RECEIVING TREASURER

INCOME TAX STRATEGIES

The current tax law increased the standard deduction substantially and made itemizing deductions non-advantageous for most taxpayers. However, prepaying some or all of your 2020 church donations, whether pledged or not, during the current calendar year is still a legitimate way to increase your itemized deductions. If you choose to do this, please indicate "Prepaid 2020" on the memo line of your check so that it will be recorded properly. Also, the check must be dated "2019" and be mailed/postmarked or delivered by you to the church office before January 1, 2020.

Also, making charitable donations directly from a taxable retirement account when age related mandatory distributions are required is a legitimate way to reduce your taxable income.

CHURCH FUNDRAISERS

When various church organizations raise money by the sale of items (meals, merchandise), these transactions have never been shown on the Report of Contributions that I issue because I have no way to impute the fair market value of the item received.

CONTRIBUTION REPORT & 2020 STEWARDSHIP STATUS

The third 2019 Report of Contributions showing donations through the end of November will be issued in early December. At the bottom of this report will be a note showing the recorded Estimate of Giving of the donor(s) for 2020.

CHECK LEGIBILITY & SECURITY

Farmers Bank uses a check scanning machine that is unable to record various colored inks (red, pink, light blue, purple, etc.). Please use permanent black or dark blue ink to write your checks. Also, many marker pens use ink that is water soluble, allowing potential unauthorized changes to checks. While I do not make such changes, I cannot vouch for all who handle your checks.

~Whit Tucker (483-2284), Receiving Treasurer

MISSION NEWS

St. Andrew provides Hurricane DORIAN relief funds for the Bahamas: The Paul Reed Missions bequest was used to contribute \$2500 each to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and Water Mission International (WMI). PDA is working in partnership with Bahamas Methodist Habitat, ACT Alliance and Church Service assisting displaced people in emergency shelters with food, clothing, medicines, etc. WMI is a Christian engineering organization based in Charleston, SC which has been

engaged in providing safe drinking water to people in need around the world since 2001. Their disaster response teams are currently in Great Abaco providing drinking water from reverse osmosis plants (30K gpd in Marsh Harbor and several 2K plants around the island). They are also working with local relief groups providing food, medical care and infrastructure repairs.

Coalition Against Poverty Suffolk (CAPS): St. Andrew supports the CAPS Bill Assistance Program with regular quarterly contributions. Bill Assistance seeks to keep people facing eviction in homes and get homeless people into housing. The need has always been greater than the funds available and is increasing with the eviction rate on the rise in Suffolk. In response, St. Andrew recently contributed an additional \$3000 to the Bill Assistance Program from the Paul Reed Mission bequest.

Rise Against Hunger (RAH): We are pleased to announce the destination of the 17,812 meals St. Andrew packaged on August 17, 2019. Our meals were included in a shipping container holding 285,120 total meals that was shipped to Mozambique for RAH partner Adventist Development and Relief Agency. Thanks to all who participated in the ministry to eliminate global hunger.

~Jeff Snyder, Mission & Service Committee

Prayers and Squares-Help Us Share God's Love

Have you seen the Prayer Pocket Squares? They are small quilted squares with one tie that you can send in a card or letter to a friend, give to someone at work to show you are thinking of them and praying for them, or add to a Christmas gift. No request is needed--you will find them in a container near the Welcome Kiosk. Take a moment to look at the squares and choose one to give to someone. Say a prayer, tie a knot, place it in a thinking of you card and give it. Let someone know you care and are praying for them.

If you have a friend or family member that you would like to receive one of our lap size prayer quilts, you may request a Prayers and Squares quilt by completing a request form found at the Welcome Kiosk. Place the form in the mailbox in the office or give it to Frances Jornov. There are many completed quilts in our cabinet. What a special way to share God's love by giving a quilt to someone.

Prayers and Squares will meet on **Saturday, January 18**, at 10:00 a.m. We will **not** meet in December. We can use all helpers and you don't need to know how to sew. There are jobs that don't require sewing skills. If you want to learn to use a sewing machine, we can help you with that. Come join us to see what is involved in making the prayer quilts, help us with our prayer pocket squares and enjoy some fellowship time.

~Frances Jornov, Prayers & Squares Chairperson

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Circle Meetings/Bible Study:

➤ Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. – Please join us for the St. Andrew Presbyterian Women Circle in the library for Bible study. Devotion presented by **Sylvia Ryder**. Lesson 4 of the Horizon Bible Study *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the 10 Commandments* by Eugenia Anne Gamble will be led by **Frances Jornov**. Lunch to follow at Smithfield Station (details on page 1).

➤ Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. – Horizon Bible Study, lesson 5

PW Sponsored Events:

December 8: St. Andrew PW outing to Ebenezer United Methodist Church in Suffolk for their Christmas concert at 3:00 p.m. For those interested in carpooling, meet at the St. Andrew church parking lot at 2:30 p.m. or meet at Ebenezer at 2:45 p.m. so we can try to sit together. Sign up at the Kiosk in the Atrium and please note if you plan on carpooling. It's a wonderful program of musicians including Christopher Newport University music students. Hope to see you there! A reception in Ebenezer's Family Life Center follows the performance.

December 10 at 12:30: **All Ladies of St. Andrew** - Lunch out at Smithfield Station on Church St. in Smithfield. (Details on page 1)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

SPONSORED CHRISTMAS MISSIONS

Traditionally at Christmas, St. Andrew Presbyterian Women have sponsored monetary support for two groups, a local and an international mission/organization. The offering received will be divided between the two missions.

Local Mission: This year St. Andrew PW has chosen to support the Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center located on East Washington St. in downtown Suffolk. This is an organization working to meet the hunger and personal needs of those in Suffolk. The organization has operated a food pantry for the past 16 years, providing canned goods, fresh produce and meat six days a week, serving over 300 families.

International Mission: This year we are showing support for Ruth Brown, Presbyterian Missionary with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, Ghana. This organization supports women in the community and is planning a Women's Conference which is the first in their 60+ year history. The donation will help the estimated 120 women

from 22 churches to attend a three-day conference whose mission is Bible study, information to promote Family Health, and training for income generation. The women are very excited for this opportunity for growth and learning.

The Congregation is invited to join us in supporting these missions. Checks should be made out to St. Andrew PW with "PW Christmas Missions" on the memo line and placed in the PW office mailbox. If you would like to designate a percentage of your donation for each mission, please note that on your check. If your donation is made through St. Andrew's general offering (for tax purposes, through St. Andrew treasurer, Whit Tucker), please make your check to St. Andrew Presbyterian Church with "PW Christmas mission" on the memo line. Donations will be received through Sunday, January 26, 2020.

If you have questions about either mission, contact **Martha Shephard**, St. Andrew PW Moderator. More details about each mission is also posted on the Kiosk in the Atrium.



eXtra Years of Zest (XYZ) Senior Adult Group

December is filled with activities for all the church to enjoy, including the XYZ's:

Friday, December 6 from 6:30-8:00 is the Christmas Open House at St. Andrew (details on page 1). Join in the fun and please bring a dozen cookies to share. Check the bulletin for other events for the Presbyterian Women and the entire congregation.

Saturday, December 14 (2:00 – 4:30 p.m.), "Mary Poppins Returns" is being shown at the Center for Cultural Arts in downtown Suffolk. It is very well done and a good show for all ages. So, go yourself, or take some neighborhood kids or grandchildren. You'll be glad you did!

Saturday & Sunday, December 14 & 15 at 4:00 p.m. The Virginia Choral Society is presenting **Wassail! Carols of Comfort and Joy** by Alexander L'Estrange. Church member **Tom Seymour** is one of the singers. The Saturday performance is at Trinity Lutheran Church in Newport News; Sunday's performance will be at Hampton Roads Academy in Newport News. General admission is \$20 (\$16 in advance), or \$12 each for groups of ten or more. www.vachoralsociety.org. 757-851-9114.

January 2020 XYZ activities are listed on page 9.

~Lisa Cross, Senior Adult Leader

Advent Studies for Adult Classes

Join us as we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Christ Child. Advent will begin a little early this year, as all four adult Sunday classes will start their Advent studies on Sunday, November 24 (9:00 – 9:45 a.m.)

Not a Silent Night: Mary Looks Back to Bethlehem by Adam Hamilton. In this study, United Methodist minister Adam Hamilton looks at Jesus' life through the eyes of his mother. Beginning with Jesus' death and resurrection, Hamilton imagines what Mary would have seen and thought throughout her son's life and ministry, ending at the beginning with his birth in Bethlehem. Both the **Jack Holladay Class** (led by **Curtis Corl** in Room 206 on the second floor of the education building) and the **Homebuilders Class** (led by **Sara Collins** in Room 101 on the first floor) will be focusing on *Not a Silent Night* and encourage you to join the conversation.

Some of the loveliest songs of the Christian year tell of the yearning of God's people for a Savior. ***People Look East: A Study of Advent Hymns*** by Professor of Religious Studies at Brevard College, Mel Bringle, will allow us to drop in on a handful of historic moments in scripture and in the lives of the hymn writers themselves. **Steve Suhring** and **Harry Cross** will co-lead a combined **Challenge of Faith Class** and **Faith Journey Class** in Room 204 on the second floor of the education building.

Church school classes will not meet on Dec 1, the Sunday after Thanksgiving or on December 29, the Sunday after Christmas, so Advent classes will be as follows:

Sunday, November 24
 Sunday, December 1 – No Class
 Sunday, December 8
 Sunday December 15
 Sunday, December 22
 Sunday, December 29 – No Class

~Beth Lyon-Suhring, Director of Christian Education

CROSSWALK

Church School for pre-K and elementary students

The 2019 – 2020 CrossWalk theme is "Listening to God's Word. December's focus will be on **Angels & Christmas**. The January 2020 focus will be on **Elijah**.

Parents can join one of the adult advent studies listed above in December, or one of the 4 adult Sunday classes in January (look for January topics to be posted in the bulletin), offered at the same time in the same building. Contact **Beth Lyon-Suhring**, Director of Christian Education, for more info at lyonsuhring@hotmail.com.

ST. ANDREW PRESCHOOL

KINDERGARTEN FAIR

Thursday, January 30, 2020; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Parents whose children will be entering kindergarten in fall 2020 are invited to attend the St. Andrew Preschool annual Kindergarten Fair in the Atrium on January 30, 2020. There will be many schools represented who can answer your questions to help you decide which school will be best for your child.

The Fair is open to preschool families, church members, and the local community.

If you have questions, contact **Carol & Jim Carnegie**, Preschool Directors, at (757) 714-2211 or standrewdirector@gmail.com.



Thank you for the recognition of Volunteer of the Year. I am blessed to have St. Andrew as my church family and family helps family. I absolutely enjoy my volunteer experience and am looking forward to more great experiences with my St. Andrew family in the future.

~Carol Davis

WORSHIP PREP CLASS

St. Andrew's 6-week Worship Prep Class for first and second graders recently wrapped up. Children who participated include **Layla Braswell, Daniel Gwaltney, Ryan Morell, Grant Smyers, Allie Steinert, and Erik Welander**. Please welcome them to full participation in the worship of God's people.

The following children recently received Bibles (appropriate for their age) during worship:

Four Year Olds

Luke Estes (son of Carrie & Rob)
Carter Hamrick (daughter of Leslie & Bo)
Esley Hill (daughter of Lucy & Chris Hill)

Third Graders

Caroline Kowalski (daughter of Beth & Andy)
Andrew Nagy (son of Becky & Sean)
Emma Lee Smith (daughter of Kayla & Christopher)

NEW WEBSITE COMING SOON

Look for St. Andrew Church's new website to be operational by early December. Watch the bulletin for the launch date.

JANUARY 2020: SAVE THESE DATES

XYZ SPONSORED EVENTS:

➤ Sunday, January 5, 2020 at noon (following the 11:00 Worship Service) Lt. Col. Frank Womble (US Army retired) will present a program of interest to all veterans and spouses about the VA Aid and Attendance (A&A) pension benefit. It is a Tax-free monthly payment to eligible veterans and surviving spouses who need daily assistance at home, in assisted living or in a nursing home. As one of our members so aptly said, "This is one of those programs you don't know you need, until you do." Join us to find out what and why over soup, bread, and dessert. Please sign up on the XYZ Bulletin board or send an email to lisa.t.cross@gmail.com.

➤ Saturday, January 25 "A BURN'S SUPPER" The XYZ's are invited to a Burn's Supper on Saturday, Jan 25, 2020 at 5.30 p.m. at the home of **Lisa & Harry Cross**. This is a traditional celebration of the life and poetry of Robert Burns, Scotland's national bard. We hope to have you join us for food, fellowship and fun, with some singing and speeches to entertain you. (All food will be provided...just come and enjoy!) Please join us for this celebration – sign-up sheets will be on XYZ bulletin board in January. Make sure to save your place.

➤ **Portsmouth's Restaurant Week is Jan. 26-Feb. 1, 2020.** Mark **Thursday, January 30** on your calendar. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to the date.

~Lisa Cross, Senior Adult Leader

Monday, January 6: Annual Reports from all committees, church groups, and staff are due. Please submit reports in a WORD Document by email to Beverly (church secretary) at standrew@standrewpres.us.

CHILI LUNCH

**Sponsored by St. Andrew Youth Group
(All food provided)**

All St. Andrew members and friends are invited to join us on **Sunday, January 12, 2020** following the 11:00 worship service for a chili lunch with dessert provided by our Youth Group and their families. A love offering will be accepted and the money raised will help Youth Sponsored Missions.



Please join us for a delicious meal and help support our youth in their 2020 missions. Questions? Contact our Youth Director, **Angie Hillis-Baurle** at lovemusic68@hotmail.com.



"SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 2, 2020

Mission and Service

Committee will be collecting canned food and other non-perishable items for the annual "Souper Bowl" competition (AFC team v. NFC team). Show your support for the team you think has the best chance of winning the Super Bowl by depositing your canned items in either the NFC or AFC box located in the Atrium. Collection dates are January 12 through February 2, 2020.

All items will be donated to the Suffolk Food Pantry at Suffolk Presbyterian Church.

Which team do you think will win? Wear your team colors on "Souper" Bowl Sunday.

ST. ANDREW TO HOST FOURTH NIGHT STAY

Operating under the auspices of **CAPS (Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk)**, St. Andrew will host their fourth Night Stay ministry from Wednesday evening on January 15 through Wednesday morning on January 22.

Our Night Stay guests will stay in our education building on air mattresses and bedding provided by CAPS. St. Andrew will provide staffing and oversight during our guests' stay here, meals for the week (breakfast, lunch & dinner), and simple hospitality to our neighbors.

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED: Please see the sign-up sheets in the Atrium to help our brothers and sisters in Christ who are experiencing homelessness. We need people to provide food, to help with setup or cleanup and to stay part of the night (2 shifts each night).

Additional requests:

1. We could use donations of new or gently used bath towels and washcloths for our guests during Night Stay.
2. Night Stay wish list (donations of any of the following items would be welcome): \$10 gift card from any of the following – Subway, Chick-fil-A, Taco Bell, Hardee's, Burger King; Underwear (men's and women's); Disposable razors; Shaving cream/gel; Thick gloves (new or used).

For more info please contact **Angie Hillis-Baurle** at lovemusic68@hotmail.com or (757)615-3873.

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JANUARY 26, 2020 AT NOON

Members will receive the 2020 budget and congregational reports. The reports will be available one week prior to the January meeting.



1 Jim Carnegie
 2 Vanessa Buehlman
 5 Kevin Gray
 6 Avery Nicole Spires
 9 James O'Reilly
 12 Joyce Poe
 13 Raymond Hale
 14 Brenda Lovell
 14 Kim Smith
 14 Whit Tucker
 15 Phillip Goodwin
 15 Jamie Lentini
 17 Will Haverty
 17 Amanda Phelps
 20 Becky Nagy
 21 Chelsea Foust
 21 Ryan Schoenberg
 22 Virginia Stephenson
 23 Jordan Hillis
 23 Kelly Holcomb Lucas
 25 Pat Eichelberger
 25 Irene Whitfield
 26 Joshua Emert
 27 Carol Davis
 27 Wayne Prince
 28 Leslie Hamrick
 28 Shirley Martin
 29 Chris Prince
 31 Ralph Steinert



1 Courtney Gartman
 1 Tricia Haverty
 2 Michael Coleman, Jr.
 4 Pat Mitchell
 4 Bert Senter
 5 Rhonda Gordon
 5 Sally Johnson
 5 Margee Milliser
 7 Rhys Franklin
 8 Sarah Lemon
 8 Deborah Sessoms
 9 Peyton Ellenor
 11 Frank Womble
 12 Jennifer Coston
 12 Diane Bondurant
 17 David Lemon
 18 Philip Golding
 18 Colby Parrish
 19 Kathie Czerwinski
 19 Russell Richards
 20 Carter Hamrick
 20 Shaun Nagy
 21 Gloria Womble
 23 Morris Bander
 24 Katherine Caggiano
 26 Josh Korahaes
 26 Kurt Lentini
 27 Stephen Steele
 27 Debbie Walker
 28 Lindsay Milliser



5 John & Leigh Gillis
 10 Gordie & Maggie Fears
 21 Aaron & Sandra Carnegie
 21 Josh & Hannah Emert
 24 Marc & Margaret Richardson
 30 Joe Justice & Michelle Malven



5 Joan & Steven Jensen
 14 Shaun & Becky Nagy
 19 Paul & Angela Smyers

THE DEACONS FUND:

SET UP TO HELP THOSE IN NEED

*"You should always be happy to give the poor a helping hand;
 you become a blessing giver!"*

~Deuteronomy15:10

When the 5th Sunday of the month comes around, St. Andrew Church collects what is called...**The Deacons Fund.**

The loose offering that day is set aside to provide assistance to members of the church who need some temporary help in making ends meet, paying unexpected medical bills, or emergency repairs. It also is used to assist neighbors in need, as well as provide meals and gas for strangers who stop by the church for help. The offering also allows our church to donate to the Salvation Army of Suffolk which helps residents with utility bills and rent. It is used when needs arise and is confidential.

Donations to the Deacons Fund are welcome anytime. Simply designate the check or offering as such.

December is a 5th Sunday month. Consider giving a little extra in order to help those who do not have a little extra to spare.

BECOME A BLESSING GIVER!