



The Bagpiper



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Suffolk, Virginia

December 2022 & January 2023

BLUE CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE

Wednesday, December 14 at 6:30pm

For many people, Christmas is a particularly difficult time as they remember the loss of loved ones and the other losses of life. While some rejoice at the delights of the Christmas season, others feel their pain more deeply.

Where better to gather than in the sanctuary to acknowledge the losses we have endured, and to grieve those who are no longer with us. We gather to draw comfort from the faith that sustains us through all of life, and to worship God who came to be with us and who promises that even when we walk through the dark places, we have nothing to fear.

Please join us for this special service in the sanctuary at 6:30pm on Wednesday, December 14th.

~Pastor Gillian

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The fourth and last Special Offering of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for 2022 will be received at St. Andrew on Sunday, December 18. 50% of this offering will be used to honor the faithfulness of current and retired church workers and their families by providing financial assistance in their times of need through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions. The other half will be used for leadership development and education at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. Please give generously to the Christmas Joy Offering as you are able in support of those who have faithfully served and those who are preparing to do so. When we all do a little – it adds up to a lot.

~Danny Lovell & Rob Estes, Mission



CHRISTMAS CANTATA

And Cookies for Everyone!

Al Reese and the Chancel Choir will be presenting Joseph Martin's "A Ceremony of Candles" during the worship service on **Sunday, December 18**. This work will focus on the idea of The Light coming into the world of darkness and spreading throughout the world.

The Congregational Care & Fellowship

Committees are sponsoring a Christmas Social after the worship service. Everyone is asked to bring a favorite cookie, bread, dessert, etc. There will be cookie decorating for everyone. A sign-up sheet is in the



COOKIES

Atrium. Plan on attending with your family.

No Sunday School on December 18.

2022 CHRISTMAS SEASON

Mark your calendar with the following dates

December 13 PW Sponsored Christmas Social for all Women (see page 4)

December 14 Blue Christmas Service

December 18 Christmas Cantata by Chancel Choir
Followed by Christmas Cookie Social
Joy Offering received
No Sunday School

December 24 Christmas Eve Services

4:00 Family Service

7:00 Candlelight Communion Service

December 25 Worship at 10:00; NO Sunday School

ANNUAL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPONSORED CHRISTMAS MISSION

Each year St Andrew Presbyterian Women sponsor 2 missions, one local and one international. These missions would benefit from the financial support of our congregation. Details are on page 4.

Dear Friends,

As most of you know, the Peanuts gang with all their adventures give me many sermon illustrations. But equally, the comic strip, Calvin and Hobbes, provides good material and drives home some important truths. In one of my favorite cartoons of Calvin and his stuffed tiger, Hobbes, Calvin is talking to Susie, his arch enemy. They had both recently taken a test in class and Calvin was asking Susie about her grade. Susie tells Calvin, "I got an A." Calvin replies, "Really? Boy, I'd hate to be you. I got a C." Curious, Susie asks Calvin, "Why on earth would you rather get a C than an A?" To this Calvin smugly replies, "I find my life is a lot easier the lower I keep everyone's expectations."

Like most of these comic strips behind the humor a point is made that makes us stop and think.

As we enter the holiday season, expectations can be very high. We expect much of ourselves as we prepare and plan for gatherings and celebrations. There is, as always, too much to do and too little time in which to do it. We make great demands of ourselves, expecting that we will be all things to all people, that we will prepare the perfect meal, find the perfect gifts and, through it all, remain perfectly calm and in control. But we know in our hearts that, time and again, we do not always live up to the expectations we have of ourselves. Then there are the expectations that others have of us. We are expected to be on top of our game, when in fact we feel exhausted. We are expected to be the life and soul of any gathering, when we may find that we are sad because this season opens old wounds or makes the absence of loved ones more painful.

Perhaps we put our expectations in all the wrong places. Rather than expect so much of ourselves or others, we ought to remember that our expectations were surpassed in what is the heart of Christmas – God with us.

Our expectations are more than met in our faith in God, because Christmas is a reminder that God has come to us and continues to come to us, meeting us where we are whether that be in sadness or in joy. This Advent and Christmas, may we let go of the unreasonable expectations we have of ourselves, and not be overwhelmed by the expectations others have of us. Let us rather bask in the joy of what lies at the heart of Christmas, that which surpasses all expectations; that God has come to be with us and accepts us and love us as we are.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Gillian

EVENING PRAYER ON ZOOM

Please join **Pastor Gillian** for Evening Prayers each Tuesday night at 6:30 via Zoom in December 2022 and January 2023. (No Evening Prayer on December 13.) **Beth Lyon-Suhring** sends out the Zoom invitation by email. If you are not receiving this email each week and would like to be included, please contact Beth at lyonsuhring@hotmail.com.

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Sunday, December 11 is Wreaths Across America



(WAA) Family Pass Holder Day at Arlington National Cemetery (ANC). This is an opportunity to place a wreath at your loved one's grave ahead of the public WAA event on December 17. You must have an official ANC family pass to participate. Frank and Gloria

Womble will be traveling there to do this honor at her parents' grave. If you have a family member buried there, but are unable to travel to this event, they would be happy to place a wreath on your behalf. Please contact **Gloria Womble** at: gkwomble@yahoo.com or call her at (757) 633-1126 and leave a message.

MARY HAD A BABY, AN ADVENT STUDY ON ZOOM

Advent in the Christian church is a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus. St. Andrew's Christian Education Department is offering a four-week advent study of African American spirituals, **Mary Had a Baby**, via Zoom. The class began on Sunday evening November 27 and runs through December 18. Each class will begin at 6:30 p.m.

The discussions will be led by **Beth Lyon-Suhring**. Contact Beth at lyonsuhring@hotmail.com if you'd like to be added to the email for the Zoom link.

2021 CHECK SIGNING NOTICE

ALL DEACONS/ELDERS/COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Please make sure that all vouchers are turned in by November 30, 2022 for all items purchased up to November 30. Also, all vouchers need to be turned in by December 26 for all items purchased in December 2022. We need to close out 2022 with all purchased items and vouchers paid by the end of the year. This is a must. If you have any questions at all please see Hope Bradshaw or Brenda Lovell.

Brenda will continue to pick up vouchers and invoices on Tuesdays and should have checks issued and returned to church on Thursdays.

~Brenda Lovell, Disbursing Treasurer

CHURCH FLOWER SIGN-UP The Worship Committee has brought back the Flower Sign-up Notebook to the desk in the Atrium. Use the notebook to reserve your choice of dates to provide flowers. As always, feel free to call or text Helen Chapman at 757-412-7847 with questions or to reserve a date to provide flowers.

PEAS ON EARTH Thank you again to everyone who contributed peas this year. We exceeded our goal and I am sure we have made many needy families happy this Thanksgiving. St Andrew is definitely a giving and caring church!

~Danny Lovell, Mission

IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY Please keep **Betty Hare** and her extended family in your prayers. Betty's mother-in-law passed away on November 11, 2022.

RECENT BIRTH Please rejoice with **Mary Katherine Romanczyk** (and grandparents Mike & Kathy Romanczyk) at the birth of her daughter Mackenzie Leigh Theard on October 28, 2022. She weighed 8 pounds and was 21.5 inches long.

NOVEMBER SOUP KITCHEN The Salvation Army will not have a Soup Kitchen in December. There will be a Soup Kitchen on **Thursday, January 15, 2023**. The distribution of the meals continues to be through a drive-by system distributed by the Salvation Army staff.

Cupcakes are needed at St. Andrew by 10:30 on the day of the soup kitchen. Many thanks to all who donate cupcakes each month. St. Andrew prepared 150 meals for take out in November.

NOTES FROM RECEIVING TREASURER:

INCOME TAX STRATEGY

Making charitable donations directly from a taxable individual retirement account (IRA) when age related mandatory distributions are required is a legitimate way to reduce your taxable income.

CONTRIBUTION REPORT & STEWARDSHIP STATUS FOR 2023 The third 2022 Report of Contributions, which shows donations through the end of November, will be placed in your church mailbox in early December. At the bottom of this report will be a note showing your new offering envelope (or other account) number for 2023. Your recorded Estimate of Giving for 2023 will also be provided.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

Because postage for small parcels is almost as high as the cost of the envelopes, I will place the 2023 boxes of offering envelopes in the church mailbox before Dec. 11 for each household which used their envelopes in 2022. Any others who indicate to me a desire to have them by December 4 will also receive them at that time. Please use your new 2023 account number on the memo line of checks not contained in offering envelopes. Mailing checks inside an appropriate 2023 offering envelope will also help me accurately record donations.

~Whit Tucker, Receiving Treasurer
(757-482-2284; gwtuckerj@gmail.com)



DECEMBER

5 John & Leigh Gillis
10 Gordie & Maggie Fears
21 Aaron & Sandra Carnegie
21 Joshua & Hannah Emert
24 Marc & Margaret Richardson
28 Howard & Julie Anderson
30 Joe Justice & Michelle Malvern

JANUARY

5 Joan & Steven Jensen
14 Shaun & Becky Nagy

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPONSORED CHRISTMAS

MISSION: Each Christmas season the Presbyterian Women identify a local as well as an international mission that would benefit from financial support of our congregation. This year the PW recognizes **Coalition Against Poverty in Suffolk (CAPS)** which helps with the struggle of marginalized individuals and families as they negotiate difficulties with rent, utilities, or other personal necessities. There has been an increase of over 50% of calls for assistance this year. We would like to provide a donation to the rent subsidy program. Our international mission will buy **Emergency Life Packs** through presbyteriangifts.pcusa.org. The pack contains food, water, basic hygiene items, a blanket and other vital necessities. The packs are provided to churches assisting refugees and asylum seekers in border regions. Each pack is \$125. Church wide donations will begin from the first of December into early January. If you can contribute, please make a check out to "St. Andrew PW" with notation: "Christmas Mission" and place in Sandy Poole's church box. Donations will be divided between the two missions. St. Andrew has been so generous over the years to those in need and our sisters and brothers benefit from that generous love. If you have questions, contact Martha Shephard, PW Moderator.

FRANCES JORNOV RECEIVES PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN HONORARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The 2022 Presbyterian Women Honorary Life Membership was awarded to **Frances Jornov** at our November circle meeting. Frances embodies the values of PW through her commitment to Christ and the mission of St. Andrew. She has held many leadership roles over the years, as she does today. We are grateful for her leadership in helping to establish the Preschool many years ago. Frances currently heads Prayers and Squares, provides guidance with PW lessons, and is our circle co-chair. St. Andrew and the Presbyterian Women are blessed to have her dedication, thoughtfulness, and faithfulness to advance the work of Christ' hands and feet among us. Congratulations Frances!

~Martha Shephard, PW Moderator

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPONSORED CHRISTMAS

SOCIAL Our PW Christmas social is **Tuesday, Dec. 13, 2022** at the "Retreat" 6-9 PM. All women of St. Andrew are invited to enjoy an evening of fellowship and food hosted by Gwen Elmore, Lynne Wood, Sylvia Ryder, and Loyce Bryan. Bring a favorite dish to share. More information will be posted. We have no circle meeting that morning with adjustments to lessons in the winter/spring.

~Martha Shephard, PW Moderator

JANUARY PW CIRCLE MEETING Our next PW circle meeting is scheduled on **Tuesday, January 10, 2023, 10:00am** in the church Atrium.

A big thank you to our PW ladies who provided dinner for Kirk Night November 9th. "Breakfast for Dinner" is a fan favorite and it would not be near as fun without the ready volunteers who bring food, set up, serve, and clean up!

~Martha Shephard, PW Moderator

PRAYERS AND SQUARES On November 20, 40 quilts were blessed during worship. The quilts were made for and given to 40 children and youth as part of their Angel Tree gifts. There were Batman, Superman, trains, jeep prints, animal fabrics, 'I Spy Quilts' and more. *A huge thank you to the women who helped create these quilts!*

There will be no Prayers and Squares meeting in December. If any members desire to have a project to work on, please contact Frances Jornov.

January meetings will be **Friday, January 13 and Saturday, January 28** at 10:00am in St Andrew Hall. Come enjoy time with other St. Andrew women and help make prayer quilts. If you've been attending before, please bring whatever project you have and are working on. If you are interested in learning about quilts and sewing, come see what we are doing at our next meeting.

Request a prayer quilt If you would like to request a prayer quilt for a friend or family member, please complete a request form and put in Frances Jornov's box or contact Frances Jornov (francesjrnv@charter.net or 757-646-8955). There are many completed quilts in our closet ready to be dedicated and given. Also, there are Pocket Prayer Squares in the atrium that you may take to include in a card or give to someone. Say a prayer, tie a knot and pass it to your friend or relative. They will fit in a pocket or purse and the person can take your prayers everywhere with them.

Sewing Lessons There are three sewing machines in the Prayers and Squares closet. If you are 12 years old or older, give Frances a call to let her know of your interest in learning to sew or if you need a review to use your sewing machine. A beginners sewing class will be planned. You may use one of our machines or bring your own. A first project would be to make a pillow.

Come join us--you don't have to sew--we need help putting the ties into the quilts, pressing fabric and straightening the fabric shelves. And don't forget we do enjoy the visiting! Looking forward to seeing your smiling faces!

~Frances Jornov

ST. ANDREW CHURCH RETREAT IN THE OUTER BANKS OF NC MARCH 5 – 12, 2023

Join your church family at a beach house located in Corolla, NC for a few days of Christian fellowship,



shared meals, devotions, and free time for reading, shopping, sightseeing, and strolls on the beach. This is a great way to get to know your church family in a casual setting.

Location/Description
Seaside Vacations, house # 1617, in Corolla, NC. Oceanfront! Lots of amenities: 9 bedrooms,

9.5 bathrooms, elevator, hot tub, keyless entry, recreational room, theater room, wifi and wheelchair accessible. Bed linens and towels provided and refreshed mid-week. Each room reserved (\$175/room per half week) can be one person, friends, a couple or a family. Link to the cottage:

<https://www.outerbanksvacations.com/property/corolla-a-point-break>

Adult Retreat: Sunday, March 5 at 5pm – Thursday, March 9 at 9am. Great time for adults only. Led by **Pastor Gillian**.

Intergenerational Retreat: Thursday, March 9 at 9am – Sunday, March 12 at 9am. Great fun for all ages, including families, youth, and adults! Led by **Angie Hillis-Baurle**. **Pastor Gillian** will also attend.

Cost for the retreat is \$175/room for half of the week; \$350/room for the entire week. (Check to St. Andrew; note – Beach retreat). Payment in full is due by December 31. Envelopes for your deposit/payment will be provided next to the sign-up sheet. Please give your checks to **Whit Tucker**, Receiving Treasurer.

Scholarship: Don't let the cost keep you away. We have two \$175 Paul Reed Memorial Scholarships available. Contact Pastor Gillian for more information.

A sign-up sheet is posted in the Atrium on the table near the office wing. Select your room when you sign up: 7 Kings, 2 twin beds, 2 pyramid bunks. Nine rooms in all.

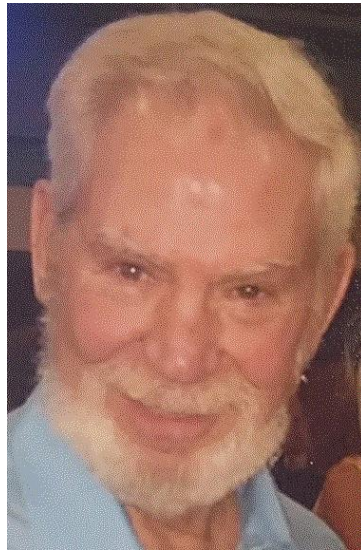
If you have questions contact **Sonja Morrell**, **Lynne Wood**, or **Angie Hillis-Baurle**.



DECEMBER		JANUARY	
Vanessa Buehlman	2	Courtney Gartman	1
Lillian Wonpat	2	Tricia Haverty	1
Kevin Gray	5	Michael Coleman, Jr.	2
Avery Nicole Spires	6	Bert Senter	4
James O'Reilly	9	Rhonda Gordon	5
Joyce Poe	12	Sally Johnson	5
Brenda Lovell	14	Margee Milliser	5
Kim Smith	14	Rhys Franklin	7
Whit Tucker	14	Sarah Lemon	8
Philip Goodwin	15	Deborah Sessoms	8
Jamie Lentini	15	Peyton Ellenor	9
Will Haverty	17	Frank Womble	11
Amanda Phelps	17	Jennifer Coston	12
Janice Brooks	19	Diane Bondurant	12
Becky Nagy	20	David Lemon	17
Ryan Schoenberg	21	Philip Golding	18
Virginia Stephenson	22	Patrick Missel	18
Jordan Hillis	23	Colby Parrish	18
Kelly Holcomb Lucas	23	Kathleen Czerwinski	19
Kathleen Pietrasanta	24	Russell Richards	19
Irene Whitfield	25	Carter Hamrick	20
Joshua Emert	26	Shaun Nagy	20
Carol Davis	27	Gloria Womble	21
Wayne Prince	27	Katherine Caggiano	24
Leslie Hamrick	28	Andrew Chapman	24
Shirley Martin	28	Josh Korahaes	26
Chris Prince	29	Kurt Lentini	26
Ralph Steinert	31	Stephen Steele	27
		Debbie Walker	27
		Lindsay Milliser	28
		Ross Roberts	28

Kirk Night
Wednesdays; 5:45 – 7:30
January 25 – March 29, 2023

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



Jerry & Gary Webb



**Roger & Susan Nelson
(Parents of Debbie McCue)**



Debbie & Marty McCue



Karen Sawtelle



Patrick, Kevin, and Tammera Missel



John & Kermette Peterson



Janice Brooks

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels 6:00 – 9:00 Preschool Parents' Night Out	3 RSA* Winter Showcase, Atrium & Sanctuary
4 Second Sunday of Advent 10:00 Worship Service; Communion 11:00 Church School for all ages 6:30 Advent Study on Zoom	5 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 10:00 Stitching, library 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB**	6 8:30 – 4:30 RSA*** (CEB**) 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	7 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 7:00 Chancel Choir Practice	8	9 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	10
11 Third Sunday of Advent 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages 6:30 Advent Study on Zoom	12 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 10:00 Stitching, library 4:00 – 9:00 Scout Troup 16, Kitchen Sanctuary, Atrium St. Andrew Hall 6:30 – 7:30 Caregivers, library 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB**	13 No Evening Prayer 6:00 – 9:00 Presbyterian Women Sponsored Christmas Social at The Retreat at Bennett's Creek 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	14 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 1:00 Preschool Chapel, Sanctuary 6:30 Blue Christmas Service 7:00 Chancel Choir Practice	15 No Soup Kitchen 6:30 Diaconate & Session meeting in Sanctuary	16 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	17
18 Fourth Sunday of Advent Cantata: "A Celebration of Candles" Joy Offering Received 10:00 Worship Service with cantata Christmas Social following worship No Sunday School 6:30 Advent Study on Zoom	19 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 10:00 Stitching, library 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB**	20 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	21 First Day of Winter 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 7:00 Chancel Choir Practice	22	23 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 Family Service 7:00 Candlelight Communion Service  <i>Christmas Eve</i>
25 Merry Christmas 10:00 Worship No Sunday School 	26 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 10:00 Stitching, library ??6:30 – 7:30 Caregivers, library 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB**	27 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom	28 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**)	29	30 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	31

*Renaissance School for the Arts (RSA) **Christian Education Building (CEB)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Worship Service No Sunday School	2 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 10:00 Stitching, library 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB**	3 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom	4 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 7:00 Chancel Choir Practice	5	6 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	7
8 10:00 Worship Service; Communion 11:00 Church School for all ages	9 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 10:00 Stitching, library 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB**	10 8:30 – 4:30 RSA*** (CEB**) 10:00 Presbyterian Women Circle meeting, Atrium 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	11 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) Noon Widows Walk, Library 7:00 Chancel Choir Practice	12	13 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels 10:00 – Noon Prayers & Squares, St. Andrew Hall	14
15 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages	16 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 10:00 Stitching, library 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB**	17 8:30 – 4:30 RSA*** (CEB**) 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	18 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 7:00 Chancel Choir Practice	19 Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, Bank Street, Suffolk 6:30 Diaconate & Session meeting in Sanctuary	20 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	21
22 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages Youth Sponsored Chili Lunch (Take Out) February Bagpiper Info Due	23 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 10:00 Stitching, library 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB**	24 8:30 – 4:30 RSA*** (CEB**) 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	25 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) Noon Widows Walk, Library <u>Kirk Night Begins</u> 5:45 Dinner 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Programs for all ages 7:15 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	26	27 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	28 10:00 – Noon Prayers & Squares, St. Andrew Hall
29 10:00 Worship Service Annual Congregational Meeting following Worship 11:00 Church School for all ages	30 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB**) 10:00 Stitching, library 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB**	31 8:30 – 4:30 RSA*** (CEB**) 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells				

*Renaissance School for the Arts (RSA) **Christian Education Building

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE
February 2023 Bagpiper Articles Due On
January 22, 2023