



# The Bagpiper



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Suffolk, Virginia

June 2023



**Congratulations to the Reverend Doctor Gillian Weighton, who graduated from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary with a Doctor of Ministry Degree on May 14 2023.**

Dear Friends,

*“People travel to wonder at the height of the mountains, at the huge waves of the seas, at the long course of the rivers, at the vast compass of the ocean, at the circular motion of the stars, and yet they pass by themselves without wondering.”*

*~ St Augustine*

Travel is one of the great pleasures of life that opens our eyes to new vistas and our minds to new ideas. When we travel, we find ourselves filled with awe and wonder at the sheer diversity, beauty, and magnificence of this amazing world. Recently, as many of you know, I traveled to Austin, Texas for my graduation and my choice of transport was car rather than plane. The wide-open road has always beckoned and so this seemed like an excellent opportunity to indulge my passion for driving. With each passing mile I found myself in awe at the ever-changing landscape around me. This is truly a remarkable country whose vastness is still difficult for me to fully comprehend. Driving through some of the cities along the way was not quite as welcome as the long stretches of open road that wove their way through mountains and plains. It was a trip to remember, for all the right reasons, and I was thankful to arrive home safe and sound.

Sometimes we are so intent on our destination that we forget to enjoy the journey and we don't take time to wonder at the world around us along the way. And, as St Augustine reminds us, we are also guilty of passing by ourselves without wondering, pausing to reflect on our life, where we have

been and where we feel God is leading. The journey to Texas gave me ample time to think, and, at times, to put my brain in neutral and simply be in the moment.

Reflecting on life is something we often avoid, or we find ourselves simply too busy to give it much thought. Perhaps we are also a little afraid of what we will uncover when given the opportunity to pause for even a moment.

As summer beckons, and life slows down a little, please give yourself time to travel to the wonderful place that is your life, with all its complexity, worry, challenges, joys; may you see your life for what it is, a gift from God. In life we surely travel to some very unwanted and unwelcome places, places where we would rather not visit, places of grief and sadness, of loss and illness, insecurity, and uncertainty. But on reflection, we remember that there are more welcome places to which we travel, places where love takes our breath away, moments of unimaginable joy, and times of unexpected delight. In Psalm 139, there is the relentless promise that wherever life takes us, wherever we travel, willingly or otherwise, God is there with us and there is no escaping God.

As I write this letter, my heart is full of gratitude for the unexpected place that you took me to today (*May 21, 2023*) after worship – a place of joy and celebration, surrounding me with love and kindness that truly left me speechless. My thanks go to you all for the beautiful luncheon, the cards, gifts, and good wishes that you showered upon me. I never cease to wonder at your generosity, love and support, and I am deeply grateful.

Peace be with you all,

*Pastor Gillian*

## **JUNE CHURCH SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES**

Join us each Sunday in June at 11:00 a.m. in the Atrium as we explore ways to care for the beautiful blue-green planet that God has given to us to cherish. **Here for a Purpose: Celebrating and Caring for the Earth**, our series of classes on earth care this summer, will focus on ways that we can make a difference in our everyday lives. Our June classes will be intergenerational – ages four through one hundred four – and will be hands-on in nature.

Here's what we have planned:

**June 4 – Caring for the Earth in Our Buildings** – We'll talk about energy use and waste in our homes and businesses and learn how to do a basic energy audit in the church. Using what we learn will save money and care for the earth at home, too.

**June 11 – Caring for the Earth in Our Yards** – Mary Catherine Foster, a Master Naturalist, will talk about the importance of pollinating insects to the natural world. We'll work together on making some pots of flowers to draw pollinators, and we'll set them out in the front of the church. We'll also make individual biodegradable pots and plant seeds to take home for our own yards.

**June 18 – Caring for the Earth in Our Kitchens** – One of the biggest causes of greenhouse gas emissions is the meat industry, particularly beef. Even minor changes in our diets could help to reduce these planet-warming emissions. In "The Great St. Andrew Cook-Off" we'll try out some summer salad recipes that use protein sources lower on the food chain.

**June 25 – Caring for the Earth in Our Missions** – The Earth provides food for each of us, but the bounty comes through the hard work of farmers. We'll partner with the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia again this summer as they provide much-needed groceries to migrant farmworkers on the Eastern Shore. We'll pack bags of donated groceries to send off to two Headstart centers, where they will be distributed to those who help put food on our tables.

Plan to join us immediately after worship this summer as we learn to be better stewards of what God has provided.

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

## **FOOD COLLECTION FOR MIGRANT FARMWORKERS ON THE EASTERN SHORE**

St. Andrew will partner with the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia again this summer as we collect groceries for migrant farmworkers on Virginia's Eastern Shore. Our goal this year will be thirty bags of groceries with contributions from St. Andrew congregants, supplemented by donations from the Suffolk Food Pantry.

Bring your donations to the marked bins in the Atrium. The deadline for donations is June 25. Here's what we need for each bag:

**4-lb bag of MASECA (cornmeal)**

**2-lb bag of dried black or pinto beans**

**16 to 48-oz bottle of cooking oil**

**12 to 18-oz can or jar of jalapeno peppers**

**All-purpose flour**

**Reusable canvas or plastic shopping bag with handles**

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

## **FOOD PANTRY NEEDS**

St. Andrew Church contributes food items to the Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center (SCFC) Food Pantry. The SCFC is a non-profit organization located in downtown Suffolk that serves under-resourced and food insecure communities in Suffolk and Western Tidewater Virginia.

**Current food item needs:**

Hamburger helper meal

Mashed Potatoes

Jelly

Canned Chicken or Tuna

Canned Soups

Canned Fruit

Ramen Noodles

Not currently needed: canned corn or green beans

## **JUNE SOUP KITCHEN**

St. Andrew participation at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen will continue on **Thursday, June 15.** St. Andrew provides 150 take-out meals and cupcakes are a welcome addition.

**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...you are angels for your continued support. The distribution of the meals continues to be through a drive-by system distributed by the Salvation Army staff.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**ALL WOMEN...Save the Date:** Our PW summer social is scheduled at Gianna's restaurant **Tuesday, July 11<sup>th</sup>**. Gianna's is always a crowd pleaser and we have a great time with fellowship and good food. More specific information will follow closer to the date. The social event at the "Retreat" at Bennett's Creek Community center will be scheduled later this summer or early fall. Stay tuned once again!

**Summer Gathering:** Presbyterian Women of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic will hold their Summer Gathering at Massanetta Camp & Conference Center in Harrisonburg, Virginia on **June 8-11**. Introduction to the 2023 Horizon Bible Study: "*Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*" will be offered by guest Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir. It will be an in-person event as well as virtual. If interested, registration information is posted on the PW Kiosk in the Atrium. Our PW has enjoyed Massanetta's Bible study and fellowship with other churches in the past. It is nice to see in person events beginning to open up after the pandemic.

**The final PW circle meeting of the year was May 9<sup>th</sup>.** Many thanks to **Pastor Gillian** for leading us in "*Sabbath and Community*". Our study resumes in September 2023 with meetings on the second Tuesday of the month at 10:00am in the church Atrium. **Sandy Poole** will order the Horizon Bible study books: "*Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts*" by Rev. Dr. Olive Mahabir later this summer.

**PW Sponsored Offerings:** As always, many thanks to the congregation in support of our Thank/Birthday Offering. Many mission ministries are aided by this offering each spring. St. Andrew is a giving church and PW is grateful!

~Martha Shephard, PW Moderator

## PRAYERS AND SQUARES: SHARING PRAYERS AND GOD'S LOVE

While reading some old emails, this information was found. Thought it would be fun to share some of our Prayers and Squares history. Can you touch a prayer or pull it close and feel its comfort? You can if it's part of a prayer quilt.

Prayers & Squares, The Prayer Quilt Ministry, began in 1992 at Hope United Methodist Church in San Diego, California. Since then, it has expanded to include chapters in churches of many different denominations across the country and in Australia and the Marshall Islands. The idea behind these quilts is simple, yet powerful. A heavy thread is used to take stitches through the quilt layers, and the ends are left free to be tied with a square knot. As each knot is tied, a silent prayer is offered for someone in special need – someone who has asked us to pray for them. The quilt is then given to that particular person. What makes each quilt special is the fact that prayer is symbolically tied into each one. They are a statement of faith, and a testimony to our belief in God and in the power of prayer.

If you have a friend or family member that you would like to receive a prayer quilt, you may request a Prayers and Squares quilt by completing a request form found at the kiosk by the doors as you enter the atrium. Place the form in the mailbox in the office or give it to Frances Jornov. You may also phone Frances (757-646-8955). There are many completed quilts in our cabinet. It is a great pleasure to share God's love by giving a quilt to someone.

Would you like to learn more about how you can become involved in this outreach mission program? We need people to press fabric, tie knots, match up fabric, cut, hand and machine sew. If you are interested in learning, we would love to have you join us. **The meetings for June are Friday, June 9 and Saturday, June 24 at 10:00-12:00 in St. Andrew Hall.**

~Frances Jornov



## IN CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

Please remember in prayer:

- The family of David Hicks, brother/brother-in-law of Margie & Wayne Utley. David, Margie & Wayne were long time members of St. Andrew before they moved to North Carolina. David passed away on May 15, 2023.
- The family of Laura Gibbs. Laura's father, Claude McPherson, passed away on May 3, 2023.

## EVENING PRAYER ON ZOOM

Please join **Pastor Gillian** for Evening Prayers each Tuesday night at 6:30 via Zoom. These thirty minutes of scripture, music, and prayer will help refocus our hearts and minds on the God who calls us beloved. **Beth Lyonsuhring** 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](mailto:lyonsuhring@hotmail.com).

**St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Finance Report**

**for Year-to-Date 4/30/23**

	<u>Apr Amt</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>		
<b>Income</b>	\$35,742	\$105,532	\$116,254		
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	<u>\$37,882</u>	<u>\$114,867</u>	\$130,287		
<b>Net</b>	<b>-\$2,140</b>	<b>-\$9,335</b>			
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>				<b><u>Endowment Funds</u></b>	
<b>Bank Assets</b>	\$273,093			<b>General</b>	\$392,045
<b>Ed Jones Inv.</b>	\$76,724			<b>Mission</b>	\$171,600
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$349,816</b>			<b>Tot Endowment</b>	<b>\$563,644</b>
<b><u>Current Liabilities</u></b>					
<b>Other Liabilities</b>	\$3,191			<b><u>Mortgage</u></b>	
<b>Earmarks</b>	\$288,451			<b>Balance</b>	\$485,329
<b>Tot Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$291,642</b>			<b>Monthly Amt</b>	\$5,200
<b>NET (Current Assets – Current Liabilities)</b>				<b>\$58,174</b>	

Both our year-to-date (YTD) income and expenses were below the budgeted amounts. Our net Loss for March was over \$2,000 resulting in a YTD net loss of over \$9,000. Our current assets are still comfortably greater than our current liabilities by almost \$60,000, and our Endowment Funds total \$563,644. Our major liability is the mortgage that we have on our property which now has a balance of \$485,329.

~Finance & Stewardship Committee

**Are you interested in joining  
the St. Andrew family?  
If you would you like to become  
a member of St. Andrew,  
please contact Pastor Gillian at  
[pastorgillian1885@gmail.com](mailto:pastorgillian1885@gmail.com).**



**Info for the combined  
July/August  
summer edition  
will be due on June 18.  
There will not be an  
August issue.  
Info for September will  
be due on August 20.**



**Father's Day is  
June 18**

**ST. ANDREW PRESCHOOL SUMMER CAMP**

St. Andrew Preschool is offering "Camp Stay and Play"!

Tuesdays – Thursdays 9:30-1:30. Ages 2 ½ - rising 1st grade (must be fully potty trained). Space is limited! Sign up to secure your spot!

Registration fee (one-time payment) - \$25/child or \$40/family

Weekly Sessions- \$80

Weekly Session Sibling Rate- \$75

Daily Drop-In - \$30

Daily Drop-In Sibling Rate- \$25

**CASH PAYMENTS ONLY**

Contact [standrewdirector@gmail.com](mailto:standrewdirector@gmail.com) for sign up information!

Session 1: June 13-15 – Beach/Luau
Session 2: June 20-22 – Dinosaurs
Session 3: June 27-29 – Space
July 4-6 – CLOSED - NO CAMP
Session 4: July 11-13 – Camping/Fishing (featuring VBS)
Session 5: July 18-20 – Construction
Session 6: July 25-27 – Pirates & Mermaids
Session 7: August 1-3 – Shark Week
Session 8: August 8-10 - Circus

~Amanda Greco, Preschool Director

**GRADUATE INFO NEEDED**

Graduate announcements for the Bagpiper:

To all St. Andrew members who will graduate this spring from high school, college, or beyond: **email the details below to [lizatucker@hotmail.com](mailto:lizatucker@hotmail.com) by June 18** so that they may be shared with our readers in the summer newsletter edition. You may also place a graduate announcement form (located at the Kiosk in the Atrium) in the Bagpiper Office mailbox.

Name of Graduate:

Parents' names or name of husband/wife (if appropriate):

Graduated from which school (and location of school):

Type of degree:

Future plans:

~Liza Tucker, Bagpiper Editor

**MUSICIANS NEEDED**

During the summer months, both the Chancel Choir and Celebration Ringers will be on 'break' and I'd love to have anyone that is not able to sing, ring or play with us regularly to provide musical offerings during the summer months. This is a great opportunity for college age folks who are not in the area during the school year to return and share their talents. Please reach out to me if you or any of your family members would be interested – thanks so much – you can talk to me before or after the Sunday service, or email me at [music.standrewpres@gmail.com](mailto:music.standrewpres@gmail.com).

~Al Reese, St. Andrew Music Director

**SEASONAL HUMOR\***

For summer weddings:

- The wedding was so beautiful, even the cake was in tiers.
- Did you hear about the two spiders who got engaged? They met on the web.
- Two cell phones got married. The reception was terrific!
- Why did the King of Hearts and the Queen of Hearts get married? They were perfectly suited.

For baseball season:

- I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger and bigger. Then it hit me.
- What did the baseball glove say to the ball? "Catch ya later!"
- Why are frogs good baseball players? Because they're good at catching flies.
- Why did Cinderella get kicked off the baseball team? She ran away from the ball.

And for Father's Day, some dad jokes:

- My dream job is to clean mirrors because I can really see myself doing that.
- We're renovating the house. The first floor is going great, but the second floor is another story.

\*Taken from: [www.Churchart.com](http://www.Churchart.com) June 2023 issue

**Thank you note:**

Friends of St. Andrew,

Just wanted to thank everyone for their prayers and thoughts regarding my mom's passing. So glad and grateful for the thoughtfulness and blessings of this congregation.

~Susanne Lentini

**JUNE BIRTHDAYS**

Corrie Walker	1
Kathy Hamer	2
Charlene Barr	3
Lisa Thibodeau	3
Eileen Steinert	4
Daniel Henkel	6
Connor Kowalski	7
Tom Bryan	9
Tom Endrusick	9
Matthew Gregg	9
Martha Shephard	10
Scotty Higgs	11
Bill Byrd	12
Rob Estes	12
Evelyn Jones	12
Sydney Gregg	13
Alexandra Justice	13
Jacqueline Justice	13
John Taylor	13
Elizabeth Milliser	14
Trudy Webb	14
Kay A. Smith	17
Robert Bradshaw	18
Angie Ebel	19
Midge Gray	20
Lee Livingston	21
Deborah Wyld	21
Patrick Chester	22
Debbie McCue	22
Ginger Medrano	23
Allison Spires	23
Lauren Gordon	24
Gwen Johansen	25
Katie Lemon	25
Logan Walker	26
Dylan Poe	27
Judy Bander	28
Prestley Smith	28

**JUNE ANNIVERSARIES**

1	Bob & Rosalind Boyle
5	Terry & Wendy Phelps
5	Ralph & Eileen Steinert
5	Josh & Katie West
9	Bill & Jill Byrd
11	Rus & Carey Hayslett
12	Russell & Bobby Richards
13	Thomas & Kathleen Czerwinski
14	Steve & Martha Shephard
14	Mike & Karen Topping
14	Whit & Liza Tucker
15	Wes & April Newman
15	Shelley & Alfonso Pagliarello
16	Scotty & Mo Higgs
17	John & Sharon Newhard
20	Herbert & Diane Bondurant
20	Bill & Joy Roberts
22	Morgan & Michael House
22	Jennifer & Patrick Ryan
23	Hap & Ruth Chester
26	Bo & Leslie Hamrick
26	David & Barbara Saunders
26	Doug & Rhonda Gordon
27	Gus & Clara Spanos
30	Stefanie & Greg Lomax
30	RC & Kim Stone

If you have a birthday or anniversary that is missing or incorrect, please contact the church office at [standrew@standrewpres.us](mailto:standrew@standrewpres.us) or (757) 238-3550.

**THANK YOU!!**

We had a wonderful celebration on May 21 to not only celebrate "Music is the Message," but to rejoice with our beloved Pastor Gillian the completion of her doctoral degree and the awarding of her US citizenship. What amazing accomplishments!!!!

Unbelievably, the "surprise" celebration was carried out and the church membership enjoyed a time of fellowship during our luncheon.

But this celebration doesn't happen without the contributions of many people. We begin with a special thank you to the nine ladies who organized and carried out the plan for the luncheon. Their commitment of time, talents, and financial resources made the event special!!!!

Then there were all the people who donated food, made the cupcakes, decorated the atrium, picked up the meat, moved tables and hung decorations, helped with set up, serving, and especially clean up. As you can see it takes an army to make this happen. A BIG thank you to everyone who played any of these roles. This has been another example of how a church can accomplish big things when we all work together toward one purpose. Thank you, and we look forward to future opportunities for fellowship events here at St. Andrew.

**PS.** If you haven't picked up your dishes from the meal, please check the table in the atrium. Thank you.

~Fellowship,  
Congregational Care,  
Presbyterian Women,  
Christian Education

**It's a Boy!**

**Congratulations to Kelly Holcomb Lucus and her family as they welcome new baby**

**Owen Russell Lucus,**

**born on Friday, April 28, 2023.**

**He weighed 7 pounds and 7 ounces and was 20 inches long.**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	3
4 10:00 Worship Service; Communion 11:00 Church School for all ages: Caring for the Earth, Atrium	5 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) 10:00 Stitching 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB*	6 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom	7 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*)	8	9 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels 10:00 – noon Prayers/Squares, St. Andrew Hall	10
11 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages: Caring for the Earth, Atrium	12 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) 10:00 Stitching 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB* 6:30 – 8:30 Church reserved for Scout Troup 16, Sanctuary & Atrium	13 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom	14 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) Noon Widows Walk; library	15 Soup Kitchen at Salvation Army, Bank St. in Suffolk 6:30 Diaconate & Session meeting in Sanctuary	16 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	17
		Preschool Camp, Tues, Wed, Thur: 9:30 – 1:30				
18 <b>Father's Day</b> 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages: Caring for the Earth, Atrium <u>July/August</u> <u>Newsletter Articles</u> <u>Due</u>	19 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) 10:00 Stitching 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB*	20 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom	21 <b>First Day of Summer</b> 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*)	22	23 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	24 10:00 – noon Prayers/Squares, St. Andrew Hall
		Preschool Camp, Tues, Wed, Thur: 9:30 – 1:30				
25 <u>Food Donations for Migrant Workers Due</u> 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages: Caring for the Earth, Atrium	26 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) 10:00 Stitching 6:30 Caregivers, library 7:00 AA & Al-Anon – CEB*	27 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom	28 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) Noon Widows Walk; library	29	30 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	
		Preschool Camp, Tues, Wed, Thur: 9:30 – 1:30				

\*Christian Education Building (CEB)