



The Bagpiper



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Suffolk, Virginia

November 2023

GIFT CARDS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS

The Welcome and Congregational Care Committee will be sending our college students gift cards as a way of letting them know we are thinking about them and wishing them well on their exams in December. We would like to send each of them a \$10 gift card so they can enjoy a meal and recharge while studying. Please consider donating a gift card to Chick-Fil-A, Starbucks, Subway, Panera, or similar and place it in the office mailbox of **Lynne Wood/Gwen Elmore** no later than NOVEMBER 5, 2023.



If you prefer, you can make a monetary donation to the committee to purchase gift cards. Make check payable to St. Andrew with a note "College Gift Cards." Thank you in advance for your donation. Please contact **Lynne Wood** at woodpile_lb@charter.net or **Gwen Elmore** at gwenelmore49@gmail.com if you have questions.

St. Andrew will participate in the Suffolk United Thanksgiving Dinner food collection/distribution again this year by providing a minimum of 250 cans of sweet peas. Our collection will continue through November 12. Please leave your donation of canned sweet peas at the designated location in the Atrium any Sunday or at other times during the week, but please call ahead to ensure the church is open before coming.



Please support this cause as this drive provides a holiday meal for locals who are in need. Check the Sunday bulletin for updates.

~Mission & Service

Details about Angel Tree (gifts for children), Silver Bells (gifts for seniors), Stockings (for children) and Mitten & Sock Tree donations are on page 3.

All items will be due no later than Sunday, December 3, 2023.



SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26 AT NOON

Mark your calendars and plan to join in decorating the church for the Christmas season on November 26 at noon, following Sunday School. Lunch will be provided by The Fellowship Committee.



~Deborah Banks

ST. ANDREW MEN'S GROUP

The St. Andrew Men's group will be meeting on the first Monday of each month starting November 6, 2023 at 6:00pm in St. Andrew Hall. The first meeting will be more of a re-organization meeting electing open officers and designating future meeting agendas.

This group invites all of the men of St. Andrew to come and enjoy fellowship and become aware of all of the good things we plan to do. Dinner will be provided at a cost of \$10.00 per person. A signup sheet will be located in the Atrium so please sign up so we will know how many meals will be needed. This is a great way to better know your church family members. We hope to have a large turnout.

~Danny Lovell

TIME CHANGE!

Daylight-Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 5, so **don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, November 4.**



The December 2023 & January 2024 newsletter will be a combined issue with info for both months due on Friday, November 17. (Please be aware of the Friday due date, to accommodate the editor's Thanksgiving schedule.)

"Peas" on Earth

Dear Friends,

“Universal peace can only come if we develop and awaken the capacity to love people, to respect them deeply, to live authentic relationships with others, to yearn for truth and justice in the huge family of humanity.”

~ Jean Vanier

Once again, as I sit down to write to you, we find ourselves watching yet another war unfold with all the suffering it inevitably brings to those caught in the midst of it. As if it were not enough that the war in Ukraine rumbles on, there is now escalating war in the Middle East and tensions continue to rise in various parts of our troubled world. The heartfelt aspirations of billions of people are for universal peace, and these dreams further away than ever from being realized. Jean Vanier writes that for universal peace to become anything near a reality we must “develop and awaken the capacity to love people.”

The fact that he uses the word “develop” is a reminder that it takes work, hard work, to awaken the capacity to love people. It is even harder to develop this capacity when we see how inhumane we have become toward one another. Much of what we see people doing to each other sickens us and makes us despair for ourselves and the future of our planet. Love may, indeed, be the last thing on our mind.

But we are all part of this huge family of humanity, as Vanier says. And I suspect that the vast majority of us all want the same things; truth, justice, peace, people to love and people to love us.

We cannot change much of what we see happening around the globe, but rather than give in to despair and the feeling of being hopeless and helpless, we each have the capacity to love and respect others. In the life of Jesus, we see this love which was extended even to the most unlovable and those whom others had shunned and rejected. And in the life of Jesus we are given, repeatedly, clear examples of loving beyond the usual boundaries that we are so adept at creating.

The scene at the well in John’s gospel is a stark reminder of the expansive, radical love that Jesus showed us as an example to follow. When a woman of ill repute who was a Samaritan met Jesus, he showed her nothing but love and respect and in so doing broken down the barriers between the sexes, between saint and sinner, between Jew and Samaritan. If we are to make any inroad into creating universal peace then we must find ways to sincerely follow Jesus, and develop and awaken our capacity to love people, always mindful that we love because we have first been loved by God.

May God’s peace and love be with you all,

Pastor Gillian

EVENING PRAYER ON ZOOM

Please join **Pastor Gillian** for Evening Prayers in November on Tuesdays 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 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.

SIGN UP TO RECEIVE PASTOR GILLIAN’S E-VOTIONAL

If you would like to receive Pastor Gillian’s E-votional, contact her at pastorgillian1885@gmail.com. The weekly email usually includes an e-votional and prayer, the upcoming scripture for the Sunday sermon, details about Sunday Church School, and Kirk Night info for the week.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**October 19, 2023 Stated Meeting**

- Approved request from Jeff and Jennifer Coston for transfer of their membership to Bethlehem United Methodist Church in Moneta, VA.
- Approved request from the Christian Education Committee for a Preschool Fundraiser in November. The proceeds will support the Preschool staff attendance at the 2024 VAAEYC conference.
- Received the Finance Committee’s report on the recently completed financial audit and approved their motion to implement the audit recommendation to which will require the Disbursing Treasurer to review, sign and date the monthly bank statements, which will be filed in the church office and reviewed semi-annually by the Trustees. Decided to not implement the audit recommendation regarding two signatures on checks over a predetermined amount as the existing voucher signature process provides sufficient control.
- Approved Finance Committee’s recommendation to move \$50,000 from the recently matured CD at Edward Jones into the Towne Bank checking account to assure sufficient cash reserves. The remaining balance will be reinvested in another CD at the best rate available.

~David Mckercher, Clerk of Session

Angel Tree and Mitten Tree Projects Begin November 6

You can help make Christmas brighter for some local children and seniors by participating in St. Andrew's annual seasonal projects.

Angel Tree: Signups for the Angel Tree will be available through Sign-Up Genius beginning November 6. There will be "Angel tags" available for children under 18, and "Silver Bell tags" available for seniors. The tags will include suggested clothing sizes and/or "wish list" items for age-appropriate toys.



For those who are reluctant to sign up online, you may call the church office at 757-238-3550 or email Beth Lyon-Suhring at lyonsuhring@hotmail.com, and she can help you sign up. Members of the Mission and Service committee will also be available to help with sign ups after church services during the collection dates.

All Angel Tree gift items should be brought to the collection bin in the church atrium NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3. Please be sure that the gifts are unwrapped and that the recipient's name is clearly indicated on each gift. If you choose tags for two different children, please be sure that the gifts are clearly marked and separated. All of the Angel Tree gifts will be delivered to the Salvation Army in Suffolk during the week of December 3.

Mitten Tree: The annual Mitten Tree project will take place simultaneously. You may contribute new mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, or socks for children of all ages. These donations may be placed in the designated area of the church atrium, and they will be directed to local children who need a little extra warmth this winter.



If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any member of the Mission and Service Committee--**Karen Topping, Kyle Madden, Becky Nagy, Rob Estes, or Danny Lovell**. We appreciate your participation in these projects!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPONSORED CHRISTMAS MISSION

(The congregation is invited to participate.)

Every Christmas season, PW solicits congregational support for local as well as international needs for our **Christmas Mission**. Local support will go to Children's Hospital of the King Daughters (CHKD) which

recognizes the growing concern for children and youth with mental health challenges. Their "Lighting the Way" campaign is an effort to address the lack of mental health services for children and youth in our area and beyond. The initial campaign helped build a 14-story pavilion on the main campus in Norfolk. There are ongoing needs for mental health programs for outpatient, inpatient, and partial hospitalization services. It goes without saying that a child's mental health is critically important for so many reasons. As CHKD says: "Please join us in lighting the way to a brighter future for all our children by making a gift to our mental health campaign".

Internationally, the identified need is for ongoing support of the citizens of Ukraine through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) program. Over a third of Ukrainians have been forced from their homes and over 7 million displaced within the country. The majority are women, children and the elderly who are vulnerable in many ways. The first priority of PDA is funding to established and trusted partners on the ground who have knowledge of ongoing needs for food, housing and basic needs. The support also goes for psycho-social support, transitional care, and other services to support refugees who intend to stay in the host country until the conflict ends.

The Presbyterian Women thank you in advance for the support to these 2 worthwhile missions. Checks can be made out to St. Andrew PW with notation "Christmas Mission" and placed in **Sandy Poole's** mailbox, PW Treasurer. Donations will be accepted until early January, 2024.

~Martha Shephard, PW Moderator

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women's monthly meeting is scheduled **Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 10:00am** in the Atrium. **Loyce Bryan** will lead Lesson 3 on "A Bleeding Woman Encounters Christ." Please join us as it is never too late to participate in fellowship and study. If you need a study book, let Martha Shephard know.

PW sponsored Kirk Night meal: PW is scheduled to provide the dinner for Kirk Night, **November 8, 2023**. "Breakfast for Dinner" will be served. A sign-up sheet will be posted on the PW Kiosk nearer to the date.

PW sponsored Christmas social:

Save the Date: Christmas potluck social scheduled for **Friday, December 8, 2023 from 6:30-8:30pm** at the home of **Janice Brooks**. It's always a great time so mark your calendar! Look for more details as the date approaches.

~Martha Shephard, PW Moderator

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Finance Committee Report
for Year-to-Date 9/30/2023

	<u>Sept Amt</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
Income	\$36,390	\$331,617	\$348,969
<u>Current Assets</u>		<u>Endowment Funds</u>	
Bank Assets	\$28,302	General Fund	\$407,562
Ed Jones Investments	\$233,925	Mission Fund	\$174,973
Total Current Assets	\$262,227	Tot Endowment	\$582,535
<u>Mortgage</u>			
Balance* (estimated)	\$465,150		
Monthly Payment	\$5,200		

As of October 22, 2023, we have not yet received our end-of-September financial reports from our bookkeeper, so we cannot address the expense side of our finances. Thus, this report addresses only those financial items that we have available at this time. Our total income for September was about the same as the average monthly income for 2023. You can see, however, that our YTD Actual income is over \$17,000 below the YTD budgeted amount. We are seeing some large expenses in October for facility maintenance, so we expect to see some large deficits that we will address by transferring some funds from our Ed Jones investment account back to our bank account.

~Finance & Stewardship Committee

A NOTE FROM THE RECEIVING TREASURER

At Saint Andrew, there are three categories of donations for operations:

- (1) "Pledged" for members and non-members who return identified Estimate of Giving cards with amounts designated.
- (2) "Unpledged" for members who either do not return a card or return a card with the "Unable to contribute..." box marked.
- (3) "Loose Plate" for non-pledging non-members and for unidentified donations from members. (For months with 5 Sundays, all loose plate donations of that week go to the Deacon's Fund.)

All identified donations are recorded and reported in four annual Reports of Contributions. These were formerly quarterly reports, but the first quarter report was moved to after the end of November to assist donors in meeting "pledged" amounts before the end of the budget year.

As I am quite capable of making "fat fingered" data entry errors, please review all of your Reports of Contributions so that corrections can be made in a timely manner.

~Whit Tucker, Receiving Treasurer

MISSION MOMENTS

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church will be hosting a Mission Sunday on December 3, 2023 right after our 10:00am worship service. We will have our Atrium area setup with display tables for charity organizations that we currently support to tell their stories to our church family and share upcoming events and opportunities that they have going on or that are planned. We hope this event allows our members to better understand how our dollars impact the charities we support.

There will be a sign-up sheet for light refreshments coordinated by the Fellowship Committee. This is our first time offering such an event and we hope that everyone will stay around to learn more about the charities. Do you have a church family member that is difficult to buy a gift for during the holidays? Maybe a donation to one of the attending charities in the name of a church member would be that gift!

More information will be forthcoming.

~Mission & Service

Other mission opportunities at St. Andrew listed in this newsletter:

Angel Tree/Mitten Tree – page 3

“Peas” on Earth – page 1

PW Sponsored Christmas Mission – page 3



Sunday, October 22, St. Andrew celebrated the process of submission and dedication of our congregational pledges for the financial support of St. Andrew and all the church's missions and services that we provide. Following the church service, many stayed to enjoy a meal sponsored by the Finance and Fellowship Committees.

Thank you to all members of St. Andrew who were part of our Dedication Sunday activities: the pledges, the food, the fellowship, the cleanup following the meal! Every component makes our church family stronger and more capable of supporting our members and our missions.

~The Fellowship and Finance Committees

PRAYERS & SQUARES QUILTING

Come join the Prayers and Squares group to create quilts and to enjoy time with friends. Our November meeting date is **Friday, November 17** at 10:00am in St. Andrew Hall. We will have only one meeting in November. Please bring whatever project you have and are working on. There are quilts that need quilting and ties to be added. There are also quilt kits that need to be machine sewn.

If you would like to request a prayer quilt for a friend or family member, please complete a request form and put it in **Frances Jornov's** box or contact her at 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.

Would you like to learn to sew?? If you are 12 years old or older, come to a meeting and Frances will get you started. Boys, girls, men and women are all welcome. Give Frances a call if you want more details or have questions.

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 that we do enjoy the visiting! Looking forward to seeing your smiling faces!

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

If you enjoy seeing flowers in church, there are plenty of opportunities to make that happen! The Flower Sign-Up Book is located in the atrium. You can also choose to have a note added to the bulletin to show that the flowers are in memory of or in honor of someone. If you need assistance getting the flowers to church or would like help delivering flowers after church to one of our shut-ins, or have other questions, please contact **Deborah Banks** at 757-647-9157 – text/call.

~Worship Committee

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY

Welcome and Congregational Care Committee will be hosting a fall Preschool Sunday on November 12, 2023. An invitation is extended to our preschool families, teachers and the St. Andrew congregation to join together at 9:15am for a light breakfast prior to the 10:00am service. The teachers and families will be recognized during the church service.

~Lynne Wood

ST. ANDREW CHURCH RETREAT
IN THE OUTER BANKS OF NC
MARCH 10-17, 2024

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 with bathrooms, 2 half bathrooms, elevator, hot

tub, keyless entry, recreation room with pool table, theater room, WiFi and wheelchair accessible. Bed linens and towels are provided and refreshed on Thursday. Each room reserved can be one person, two friends, a couple or a family. Link to the cottage:

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

Adult Retreat: Sunday, March 10 at 5:00pm – Thursday, March 14 at 9:00am. Great time for adults only. Led by **Pastor Gillian**.

Intergenerational Retreat: Thursday, March 14 at 9:00am – Sunday, March 17 at 9:00am. Great fun for all ages, including families, youth, and adults! Led by **Angie Hillis-Baurle**.

Cost for the retreat is \$470 per room for the entire week, \$270 per room for Sunday-Thursday, and \$200 per room for Thursday-Sunday.

(Make checks payable to St. Andrew. Note – Beach retreat). Payment in full is due by January 14, 2024. Envelopes for your deposit/payment will be provided next to the sign-up sheet. Please give your checks to **Whit Tucker**, Receiving Treasurer.

A sign-up sheet will be in the Atrium on November 5 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.

Questions, please contact:

Gwen Elmore, Lynne Wood, or Angie Hillis-Baurle.

NOVEMBER SOUP KITCHEN

St. Andrew participation at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen will continue on **Thur., November 16**. 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.



*Thank You
Note*

I want to thank those who signed the card for me as I recover from a concussion. All thoughts and prayers have been greatly appreciated! I hope to return to church soon.

Patti Archer

BIBLE QUIZ*

Fill in the blank: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give _____ in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

- A. alms
- B. praise
- C. thanks
- D. offerings

Answer: See 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18, NIV

*Churchart.com; November 2023 issue

WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



Theresa & Jim Carpenter



Heather Moore



Jody, Cal, & Joey Luck



Julia & Jim Pratt

LOOKING AHEAD



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Ethan Caggiano	1
Karen Sawtelle	1
Sayge Taylor	1
Carol Wilson	1
Jim Perkinson	2
Alyce Golding	4
Jennifer Ryan	4
Betsy Beard	5
Julia Gresham	6
Kristen Baurle	7
Kristina Zachary	8
Lauren Haverty	9
Heather Mushero	11
Thomas Goodwin	11
Barbara Saunders	12
Rena Thompson	12
Spencer Buehlman	14
Cordelia Seymour	14
Judy Ulrich	14
Zach Walker	14
Jill Byrd	16
Raleigh Estes	18
Tom Nixon	19
Fran Kolipano	20
Travis Madden	21
Betty Woods	21
Lily Hendrickson	22
Evan Richardson	22
Faye Mayberry	23
David Saunders	23
Buddy Dye	26
Marie Dye	26
Tyler Lentini	26
Kyle Gray	27
Dawn Parrish	27
Jim Parker	28
Hunter Webb, Jr.	28
Loyce Bryan	29
Ashlee Robb	29
Andrew Nagy	30

- December 3, 10, 17 & 24 Advent Sundays
- December 3 Mission Sunday at St. Andrew
- December 8 PW Sponsored Women's Christmas Social
- December 17 Christmas Cantata
- December 21 First Day of Winter
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services at 4:00pm & 7:00pm
(The 7:00 service includes communion)
(No 10:00am Worship Service, No Church School)
- December 25 Christmas Day



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 Mike & Tricia Haverty
- 9 Jack & Peyton Ellenor
- 13 Jeff & Angela Snyder
- 18 Rhonda & Dave MacMelville
- 18 Bruce & Lara Walker
- 26 Turner & Carolyn Coffman
- 29 John & Kay Smith



Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, November 23, 2023

Need to lighten the mood at your holiday dinner table?
Share some laughter with these Thanksgiving-themed jokes.

Why did the turkey decline dessert?

Because it was stuffed.

Why did the turkey cross the road twice?

To prove he wasn't a chicken.

What smells the best at Thanksgiving dinner?

Your nose.




Why didn't the chef season the turkey?

There wasn't enough thyme.

Why did the turkey leave the band?

People were fighting over the drumsticks.

~Churchart.com; November 2023 issue

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga SAH* <u>Kirk Night</u> 5:45 Dinner 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Programs for all ages 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	2	3 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	4 Set clocks <u>back one hour tonight</u> — Daylight Saving Time ends tomorrow
5 <u>Daylight Savings Time Ends</u> 10:00 Worship Service; Communion 11:00 Church School for all ages Donations of College Student Gift Cards Due Beach Retreat Sign-up Available	6 <u>Sign up for Angel Tree Begins</u> 10:00 Stitching, CEB* 2:00 Pastor Gillian’s Kirk Night Class on Zoom 6:00 St. Andrew Men’s Dinner; SAH* 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*	7 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	8 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga SAH* Noon Widows Walk, Library <u>Kirk Night</u> 5:45 Dinner 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Programs for all ages 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	9	10	11 
12 <u>Preschool Sunday</u> 9:15 Preschool Reception 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages Canned Peas Due	13 10:00 Stitching, CEB* 2:00 Pastor Gillian’s Kirk Night Class on Zoom 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*	14 10:00 Presbyterian Women Circle, Atrium 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	15 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga SAH* <u>Last Kirk Night</u> 5:45 Dinner 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Programs for all ages 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	16 Soup Kitchen at Salvation Army, Bank St. in Suffolk 6:30 Diaconate & Session meeting in Sanctuary	17 10:00 Prayers/Squares; SAH* St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels <u>Info due for Combined Dec 2023 & Jan 2024 Bagpiper</u>	18
19 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages	20 10:00 Stitching, CEB* 2:00 Pastor Gillian’s Kirk Night Class on Zoom 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*	21 11:30 Preschool Thanksgiving Luncheon; Atrium 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	22 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga SAH* Chancel Choir	23 	24	25
26 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages Noon Hanging of the Greens	27 10:00 Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*	28 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 6:30 Evening Prayer on Zoom 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	29 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga SAH* Chancel Choir	30		

*Christian Education Building (CEB)

*Renaissance School for the Arts (RSA)

*St. Andrew Hall (SAH)

November 6 – December 3: Angel Tree/Mitten Tree

Donations to St Andrew PW sponsored local & international missions accepted through early January 2024.