



# The Bagpiper



*St. Andrew Presbyterian Church*

*Suffolk, Virginia*

*November 2024*

## "Peas" on Earth THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

The Thanksgiving "Peas" on Earth collection at St. Andrew, organized by Community Efforts in downtown Suffolk, began on October 27 and will run through November 17. St. Andrew will partner with other local churches to provide those in need with a variety of foods for their Thanksgiving dinner. **Help us reach our goal to provide 250 cans of peas!** The food will be distributed to the community in time for Thanksgiving.



*~Karen Topping, Mission & Service*



## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24 AT NOON

Mark your calendars for St. Andrew's annual Christmas decorating. Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup> at noon we will be Hanging the Greens! The time is set to begin after the Sunday School hour to allow everyone the opportunity to participate. Many hands always make the work lighter, and lunch will be enjoyed after!



*~Deborah Banks*

## CELEBRATE BETH LYON-SUHRING'S MANY YEARS OF SERVICE AT ST. ANDREW

Please join us for a meal & fellowship following the worship service on November 17, 2024 (NO Church School). **Beth Lyon-Suhring** has invested in the lives of so many at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, and has truly made a difference while serving the Lord with gladness, and we look forward to sharing our gratitude and blessings with her, as she retires from her faithful service as Christian Education Director.

Fellowship and Christian Education will be providing deli style sandwiches and cake for the meal and the congregation is asked to help by bringing various cold sides.

If you have any questions, please contact **Angela Martin** at (757) 705-5367 or [angelasmymers@yahoo.com](mailto:angelasmymers@yahoo.com).

*~Amy Gray, Angel Henkel & Angela Martin;  
Fellowship Committee*

**Details about Angel Tree (gifts for children), Silver Bells (gifts for seniors), and Mitten Tree donations are on page 4. All items will be due no later than Sunday, December 1, 2024.**

## INTERIM PASTOR TO BEGIN JANUARY 6, 2025

Ruling Elder **Heather Gregg**, chair of the Transition Team, announced at the October 20 worship service that St. Andrew's session unanimously approved the Interim/Transitional Pastor Covenant with the **Rev. Dr. Lou Ventura**, with her service at St. Andrew to begin on January 6, 2025. Her first day in the pulpit will be January 12. More details will be sent to members by email.

*~David McKercher, Clerk of Session*



## TIME CHANGE!

Daylight-Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 3, so **don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, November 2.**

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

### **October 17, 2024 Stated Meeting**

- Received the report of the Nominating Committee and approved the slate of officer candidates to be presented to the congregation at the scheduled October 20<sup>th</sup> Called Congregational Meeting.
- Ratified and recorded in the minutes the September 30, 2024 e-vote unanimously approving the Interim/Transitional Pastor Covenant with the Rev. Dr. Lou Ventura, with her service beginning on January 6, 2025 and scheduled this “good news” to be announced to the congregation at the October 20<sup>th</sup> worship service by Ruling Elder Heather Gregg, chair of the Transition Team.
- Approved request from the Boy Scouts to use St. Andrew facilities for their Christmas Court of Honor on Monday, December 16.

~David McKercher, Clerk of Session

## SUPPLY MINISTERS

The St. Andrew Worship Elders are continuing their role for contacting and scheduling guest ministers to fill the pulpit until a transitional pastor is established. We have lined up the following guest ministers who will be visiting our church to share their message of hope with us in November:

11/3 – Rev. Csilla Lucskay

11/10 – Rev. Cr. Wilbur Douglass

11/17- Rev. Leigh Gillis

11/24 – Rev. Csilla Lucskay

We look forward to meeting and worshipping with each of our visiting pastors in the coming weeks.

~ Doug Gordon & Shaun Nagy, Worship Elders

**Newsletter  
DEADLINE**

**The December 2024 & January 2025 newsletter will be a combined issue with info for both months due on Friday, November 22. (Please be aware of the Friday due date, to accommodate the editor's Thanksgiving schedule.)**

## NEW OFFICERS AT ST ANDREW

The following officers were elected by the

congregation on October 20, 2024:

Session Class of 2027

**Laura Walker** - Outreach

**Sylvia Ryder** - Worship

**Kevin Gregg** - Finance

**Rhonda Gordon** - Christian Education, Class of 2025 filling the one-year term created by **Heather Gregg** becoming Clerk of Session in January.

Deacons Class of 2027

**Wendy Phelps** - Property

**Andrew Kowalski** - Fellowship

**Bob Thompson** - Property

**Amy Gray** – Fellowship

~David McKercher, Clerk of Session



## STEWARDSHIP RECEPTION

A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated food and their time to make the Stewardship reception on Oct. 20 so successful. We also want to thank all the church members who attended the reception.

~Amy Gray, Angel Henkel, and Angela Martin;  
Fellowship Committee

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women monthly meeting and Bible study will be on November 12 in the Atrium.

**Reverend Leigh Gillis** will present Lesson 3, *Food Justice*, from the Horizon's study *Let Justice Roll Down, God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. **Frances Jornov** will provide the devotional. All women are invited.

St Andrew PW is pleased to announce the awarding of Honorary Life Membership to **Martha Shephard** in recognition of her 6+ years of service to St. Andrew Presbyterian Women as Sunshine Chair, Vice Moderator, and Moderator. The Honorary Life Membership pin symbolizes values held dear by Presbyterian Women. Thank you, Martha, for your dedicated service.

~Loyce Bryan, PW Moderator

## **KIRK NIGHT CONTINUES!**

### **Join us on Wednesday evenings**

Dinner at 5:45; Classes for all ages at 6:30 (No classes on November 13 – game night for all)

**Adult Class You Are Not Alone: Caring for One Another in the Church:** We live in difficult times. A recent Pew Research Center survey found that 41% of adults said that they experienced high levels of psychological distress during the pandemic. That number rose to 58% among young adults in the 18-29 age group. We are faced with news of violent conflicts throughout the world, political rhetoric in our own country is polarized in ways we haven't seen in many generations, and our beloved earth is facing its own climate crisis.

It is no wonder that anxiety and depression mark many of our days, and if not our own, then certainly those of people whom we love.

Kirk Night's adult class will continue to look at the topic of psychological well-being for the next several weeks through the lens of a curriculum called "Sanctuary Mental Health." These video-based classes are designed to equip us to enable the church to be a sanctuary, where we can face issues of mental health head-on, providing listening ears and resources for those experiencing these struggles.

"Sanctuary Mental Health" offers a unique blend of the voices of mental health professionals, theologians, and people with lived experience.

Join this safe space for learning and discussion each Wednesday evening at 6:30 p.m., through 11/20 (with a break on 11/13 for an all-church Game Night; see article to the right). The class will meet in Room 204 on the second floor of the education building and will be moderated by **Beth Lyon-Suhring**.

## **NOVEMBER KIRK NIGHT MEALS**

Thank you to the following groups at St. Andrew who have taken the responsibility of providing meals during Kirk Night.

November 6 - Presbyterian Women - breakfast for dinner

November 13 - Preschool - Italian night (Game night, no classes)

November 20 – (Last Kirk Night) Beth Lyon-Suhring's small group – Mexican

## **KIRK NIGHT:**

### **Game Night for the Whole Church Family**

On Wednesday, November 13 we'll be turning Kirk Night into an all-church Game Night. Supper will be held at 5:45, as usual. Afterwards, we'll move to St. Andrew Hall, where we'll have lots of tables set up for board games. We'll provide some games, but if you have one that you particularly like, bring it along!

St. Andrew's Preschool will be sponsoring the Kirk Night meal that night, and their menu will include all sorts of Italian foods.

Plan to join us for a time of food, fellowship, and fun.

There will be no classes on Game Night.

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

## **STAFF HOLIDAY BONUS REQUEST**

Dear Members of St. Andrew,

As Personnel and Office Elders and Deacons, we are writing to ask your help with giving a well-deserved holiday bonus for our staff. Throughout the year our Christian Education Director, Music Director, Secretary, Pre-School Director, 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. 15th**, or mail it to the office to be received no later than **Tuesday, Dec. 17th** 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, see any member of the Personal and Office Committee.

Sincerely,

The Personnel and Office Committee

## Angel Tree and Mitten Tree Projects

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

Signups for the Angel Tree will be available through Sign-Up Genius, and the collection **will begin November 10**. 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, members of the Mission and Service committee will 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 1**. 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 1.

The **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!

### **NO SOUP KITCHEN IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER**

The Salvation Army's Soup Kitchen will have their last date for 2024 on November 14. St. Andrew will not have a working date in November or December.

Thanks to all who volunteered at the Soup Kitchen and provided cupcakes for the meals in 2024.

## **PRAYERS & SQUARES QUILTING**

Come join the Prayers and Squares group to create quilts and to enjoy time with friends. Our November meeting dates are **November 8 and November 22** at 10:00 am in St Andrew Hall. 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. The group is finishing the last of 40 children's quilts and 15 adult quilts to give to the 2024 Angel Tree/Silver Bells Project. Lots to be worked on and we would love to have your help.

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 Jorrov's box or contact her at francesjorrov@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, contact Frances. 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 we do enjoy the visiting! Looking forward to seeing your smiling faces!

~Frances Jorrov

## **SYMPATHY**

Please hold **Janice Brooks** and her extended family in your prayers. Janice's mother, Lenie McKinley, passed away in Florida on October 14.



## **COLLEGE STUDENTS TO RECEIVE GIFT CARDS**

The Congregational Care Committee will again be sending gift cards to the students in early December. We will not be asking for donations this year because we have enough cards and money left for this year.

## **St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Finance Committee Report**

### **For Year-to-Date 9/30/24**

	<u>Sept Amt</u>	<u>YTD Actuals</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>
<b>Income</b>	\$41,939	\$368,346	\$391,388
<b>Expenses</b>	<u>\$32,007</u>	<u>\$340,157</u>	\$396,604
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$9,933</b>	<b>\$28,189</b>	
<b><u>Current Assets</u></b>			<b><u>Endowment Funds</u></b>
<b>TowneBank Accounts</b>	\$134,023		<b>General</b>
<b>Ed Jones Investments</b>	<u>\$159,359</u>		<b>Mission</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$293,382</b>		<b>Tot Endowment</b>
			<b>\$708,904</b>
<b><u>Current Liabilities</u></b>			<b><u>Mortgage</u></b>
<b>Payroll &amp; Other Liab</b>	\$3,133		<b>Balance</b>
<b>Earmarks</b>	<u>\$121,072</u>		
<b>Tot Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$124,204</b>		<b>Monthly Amt</b>
			\$5,200

***Net (Current Assets – Current Liabilities) = \$169,178***

Our net income for September was almost \$10,000 running our total YTD net income to \$28,189. This was largely because our expenses for September were the second lowest for the year. About \$6,000 of our net income was the result of the reduced payroll expense resulting from our pastor situation. We have put much of our cash balance to work drawing interest via risk-free money market instruments and certificates of deposit. Together, they are generating about \$1,000 per month in income. Our endowment funds are continuing to increase in value growing over \$17,000 in September. Our balance sheet currently looks strong with our current assets exceeding our current liabilities by \$169,178. Thanks to all of you for giving generously to St. Andrew and helping us to be good stewards of our church's resources.

~Finance and 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



**ST. ANDREW CHURCH RETREAT**

**MARCH 9 - 16, 2025**

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.

**Location/Description:** Seaside Vacations, House # 1617, in Corolla, NC. Oceanfront! Lots of amenities: 9 bedrooms (each with its own bathroom), 2 half bathrooms, an elevator and much more. Link to the cottage:

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

**Adult Retreat:** Sunday, March 9 at 5:00pm – Thursday, March 13 at 9:00am. Great time for adults only. Cost: \$350/per room\*\*

**Intergenerational Retreat:** Thursday, March 13 at 9:00am – Sunday, March 16 at 9:00am. Great fun for all ages, including families, youth, and adults. Cost: \$262/per room\*\*

**Cost all week:** \$612/room\*\*

\*\*A \$100 deposit is due at Sign Up. Payment in full is due by January 15, 2025. Make checks payable to St. Andrew with memo stating Beach Retreat. Envelopes for your deposit/payment will be provided next to the sign-up sheet. Please put your checks in the offering plate or in Whit Tucker’s (Receiving Treasurer) office mailbox.

**Look for the sign-up sheet in the Atrium.** If either retreat is full, there is a wait list available, in case someone who signed up can’t go. See the sign-up sheet for the wait list.

**Questions,** please contact: **Gwen Elmore, Rena Thompson, or Angie Hillis-Baurle.**



Ethan Caggiano	1	Jill Byrd	16
Karen Sawtelle	1	Heather Moore	16
Sayge Taylor	1	Raleigh Estes	18
Carol Wilson	1	Tom Nixon	19
Jim Perkinson	2	Fran Kolipano	20
Alyce Golding	4	Travis Madden	21
Jennifer Ryan	4	Betty Woods	21
Betsy Beard	5	Lily Hendrickson	22
Kristen Baurle	7	Evan Richardson	22
Kristina Zachary	8	Faye Mayberry	23
Lauren Haverty	9	David Saunders	23
Heather Musher	11	Buddy Dye	26
Barbara Saunders	12	Marie Dye	26
Rena Thompson	12	Kyle Gray	27
Spencer Buehlman	14	Jim Parker	28
Milly Myers	14	Hunter Webb	28
Judy Ulrich	14	Loyce Bryan	29
Zach Walker	14	Ashlee Robb	29
Laura Lanoue	15	Andrew Nagy	30

**SUFFOLK CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CENTER**



**Donations due on November 17**

*(Clothing and shoes, with an emphasis on items for men, as well as blankets, bedding, linens and towels)*

Donated items can be brought to St. Andrew on the 3rd Sunday of each month and placed in the same area as the food that is collected and delivered to SCFC. If you have any questions, please contact **Danny Lovell** or **Rob Estes**.



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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
					1 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	2 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB* <u>Set clocks back one hour tonight—</u> Daylight Saving Time ends tomorrow
3 <u>Daylight Savings Time Ends</u> 10:00 Worship Service; Communion 11:00 Church School for all ages	4 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al- Anon, Alateen – CEB*	5 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	6 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) <u>Kirk Night</u> 5:45 Dinner: Breakfast 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Programs for all ages 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	7	8 10:00 Prayers & Squares, SAH* St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	9 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*
10 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages Collections for Angel Tree/Mitten Tree Projects Begin	11 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al- Anon, Alateen – CEB*	12 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 10:00 Presbyterian Women Circle in Atrium 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	13 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) Noon Widows Walk, Library <u>Kirk Night</u> 5:45 Dinner: Italian 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Game Night for all 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	14	15 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	16 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*
17 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Meal & Fellowship No Church School SCFC* Clothing Donations Due Last day for “Peas” Collection	18 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al- Anon, Alateen – CEB*	19 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	20 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) <u>Last Kirk Night</u> 5:45 Dinner: Mexican 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Programs for all ages 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	21 6:30 Diaconate & Session meeting in Sanctuary	22 10:00 Prayers & Squares, SAH* St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels <u>Info due for Combined Dec 2024 &amp; Jan 2025 Bagpiper</u>	23 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB* 5:00 – 9:00 RSA* Sanctuary & Atrium in use
24 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages Noon Hanging of the Greens	25 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al- Anon, Alateen – CEB*	26 No RSA* 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	27 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) Noon Widows Walk, Library Chancel Choir	28 	29 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	30 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*

\*Renaissance School for the Arts (RSA) \*Christian Education Building (CEB) \*St. Andrew Hall (SAH) \*Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center (SCFC)

**LOOKING  
AHEAD**

**December 1: First Day of Advent**  
**December 1: Angel Tree/Mitten Tree items due**  
**Wed, Dec. 25: Christmas Day**