



The Bagpiper



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Suffolk, Virginia

March 2026



EASTER BASKET COLLECTION

to Benefit ForKids in Suffolk

St. Andrew is collecting Easter baskets, candy, and other small basket filler items for boys and girls ages 2 – 17 from **March 1 – March 22, 2026**. The baskets will be assembled and delivered to ForKids in downtown Suffolk so that they may be distributed to local families in need. Place your donations in the plastic tub in the Atrium (suggested items include: wrapped candy, small toys, baskets, small crafts, Easter grass, books, individually packaged toothbrushes, and toothpaste). If you want to support this mission but are unable to shop, please write a check to St. Andrew and note **Easter Baskets** on the memo line. *Please note that this year they have requested **peanut-free** candy.* Baskets will be assembled in the church Atrium on **Sunday, March 22nd at noon** (following Sunday School). Help is needed! Please contact **Kyle Madden** (Kyle.F.Madden@hii-nns.com) or **Karen Topping** (ktopping@trinitynn.com) if you would like to help. Thank you in advance for your donations and for sharing God's love this Easter!

(Easter Sunday is April 5, 2026.)

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will hold their monthly meeting and Bible study on March 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Atrium. We are moving into Part III of our study, *Finding Our Identity.* **Sue Urie** will facilitate Lesson 7, *The Woman Who Was Bent Over*, and **Amy Gray** will provide the devotional. All women are welcome. Come early if you can to visit and catch up.

~ Loyce Bryan, Presbyterian Women Moderator

CELEBRATE THE

GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY

March 1, 2026

Each year *Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday* offers a time to reflect on and rejoice in the ways women enrich the life of the church. St. Andrew will observe Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday on March 1 honoring women of faith, those who may have felt their faith falter at times, and those who held fast to faith. We give thanks for their persistence—their witness, their words, their actions. We know we stand on their shoulders. Worship Service will feature women as greeters, ushers, and liturgist.

~Loyce Bryan, Presbyterian Women Moderator

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

Our next meeting of the Presbyterian Men will be held on March 9th, 2026, when we'll meet at 6:00pm in St. Andrew Hall. Dinner will be available for \$10.00. Our monthly meetings provide a great chance for us to get to know each other better while enjoying a delicious meal—and dessert! You won't want to miss it.

If you have any questions or suggestions for future speakers, please contact **Andy Chapman, Jim Pratt, Lin Hanbury, or Bob Thompson.**

~Bob Thompson



Daylight Saving Time

begins on Sunday, March 8.

Don't forget to set your clocks

ahead 1 hour on Saturday, March 7.



Our condolences to Margaret Richardson and her family on the loss of Margaret's mother, Connie Zuidema, on Thursday, Feb. 19th.



Safety and Security

SUFFOLK CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CENTER

Donations due on March 15, 2026

Most needed food items during cold weather include:



Breakfast foods: hot and cold cereals
Hot drinks: hot chocolate, apple cider, tea bags, ground coffee (NO coffee pods)

Other food item needs include: Hamburger helper meal, mashed potatoes, jelly, canned tuna or chicken, canned soups, canned fruit, and ramen noodles

Clothing & Shoes: with an emphasis on items for men, as well as blankets, bedding, linens & towels

Donated clothing 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 **Rob Estes** or **Tom Bryan**.

ST. ANDREW 101

(FORMERLY NEW MEMBER CLASS)

Join us on **Sunday, March 8** after worship in room 205 of the Education building for an overview of membership at St. Andrew. We'll also cover what it means to be Presbyterian and answer any questions you may have. Refreshments will be provided. Please notify **Margaret Richardson**, **Laura Walker**, or **Pastor Lou**, or call the church office if you would like to attend.

Things about Safety & Security at St. Andrew you may not know:

- Entrances to the Church are locked shortly after worship begins. This enhances our security posture.
- One adult usher remains in the Atrium (or administrative office) to monitor entrances during worship for late arrivals or others who leave and return.
- At each entrance there is a camera which feeds a TV monitor in the administrative office. A sign is posted at each entrance to inform you.

Reminders:

- Please make sure you do not leave children unattended.
- Remember, Safety and Security is everyone's responsibility
- If you see something, say something to Church staff or an usher.



SOUP KITCHEN

Thursday, March 19, 2026

**Salvation Army;
Bank Street, Suffolk
Cupcakes needed at
St. Andrew by 9:30am**



We have entered Lent, and, as it does every year, it seems to approach so quickly! I have kept the renunciations I spoke about in the sermon on the first Sunday of Lent within my sight range, and whenever I see it, my eyes immediately go to the statement “Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.” Reading it seems to evoke an immediate sense of calm, orienting me to what is really important. I appreciate—and often need—the perspective adjustment.

As the church year moves ahead, the work of the church continues. The CAPS night stay program to help our houseless friends is still recruiting volunteers. Your Vision Team is wrapping up its analysis of the survey results and is about to begin to integrate them into a mission study. In the coming weeks, you will begin to see some slides before worship again as well as educational material as the team works to create their final document.

After much patient work by Office Manager Beth Martin to get a response from Microsoft, we are finally moving forward towards our centralized email system on the standrewpres.net domain. We will also set up a SharePoint document storage site that will allow church leaders to store important information (think Session and Diaconate minutes, policies and procedures, job descriptions, contracts and such) in one place so that as individuals rotate off and others roll onto the Session and Diaconate, the institutional history remains accessible.

And, as of early February, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is incorporated! This will be almost transparent to most of you, but adds a critical layer of protection for the church.

We are almost done transferring financial operations to Barnes & Associates, and things are going well. We’ve experienced some bumps—expected in any transition—but we are pleased with the response and service we’re receiving.

I hope that you are experiencing a holy Lent, one of self-examination and repentance; prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and reading and meditating on God's Holy Word. Remember that this season is not a time to submerge ourselves in our penitence but to live as the baptized in light of the initial penitence we confessed on Ash Wednesday.

Be encouraged, and pursue *shalom*!

Lou

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

February Stated Session Meeting

At the February 19, 2026, Stated Session Meeting, the Elders addressed the following business of the church:

- Began the process of updating the official church roll and contacting non-active members about removing them from our roll.
- Transitioning to a new CPA firm and bookkeeper is progressing and should provide better service to the church once the transition is complete
- Received confirmation of Incorporation status from the Virginia SCC, effective February 4, 2026
- Approved update to St. Andrew Mission Statement, as recommended by the Vision Team and stemming from the results of the survey analysis they are currently conducting, the revised Mission Statement reads: *"Our mission is to love God, to grow in faith, and to love and serve others knowing that we go in the strength and company of God who is with us always."*
- Approved 2025 Church Statistical Report, which will be posted in the Mail Room for the congregation's access and review
- Researching an application for a PEVA Capital Needs grant to determine what needs at St. Andrew would be appropriate for this funding opportunity

~ Heather Gregg, Clerk of Session



Information about ordering

Easter flowers will be available soon. Be on the lookout in upcoming bulletins and at the Kiosk. In the meantime, there are plenty of opportunities to bring flowers for the Sunday morning service. The sign-up book is easily located at the Kiosk in the Atrium. Flowers can be as simple or extravagant as you would like! You can also include a note to be added to the Bulletin if the flowers are in memory or honor of someone or a special occasion. Flowers can then be taken with you or they will be taken to brighten someone else's day. If you have questions or need any help, please call/text **Deborah Banks, #757-647-9157.**



ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS) offering will be received on Palm Sunday, March 29. Around the world, millions of people lack access to sustainable food sources, clean water, sanitation, education, and opportunity. The three programs supported by One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) — Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, the Presbyterian Hunger Program, and Self-Development of People — all work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need.

Received during the season of Lent (Feb. 18 – April 2, 2026), each gift to OGHS helps to improve the lives of people in these challenging situations. We will be collecting this offering through Easter with giving envelopes provided in the Palm Sunday bulletin.

Please give generously as you are able this year.

~Mission & Service Committee

DEACON'S FUND

When the 5th Sunday of the month comes around, St. Andrew collects what is called the Deacon's Fund. On that day the loose plate offering is set aside to provide assistance to members of the church, and others, who need some temporary help in making ends meet, paying unexpected medical bills, or emergency repairs.

March is a 5th Sunday month. Please consider giving a little extra cash that day to help those in need.

PALM SUNDAY IS MARCH 29th

Did you know?



PALM BRANCHES — When Jesus entered Jerusalem days before his death, crowds welcomed him by waving palm branches, common symbols of victory and rejoicing. Churches still use them to remember that occasion, knowing that Jesus' crucifixion was the ultimate triumph over sin and death. As early as Leviticus 23:40, God commanded Israel to use palms in a festival of rejoicing. In Revelation 7:9-10, Christian martyrs carry palm branches as they praise the Lamb before God's throne.

The ashes of one year's palms are traditionally used at the following year's Ash Wednesday service.

PRAYERS & SQUARES

The Prayers and Squares group is working on creating the quilts for the Angel Tree children and seniors' gifts. If you would like to help us with this project, let Frances know. You can work at home using supplies we will provide or you can join us at our meetings. If you would like to learn to sew, we can help you with that goal—learn while making an Angel Tree gift quilt. 10 years old and up are welcome to join in this project. (Frances was a home economics teacher and enjoys teaching children and adults to sew.)

March meetings will be **Friday, March 13 and Friday, March 27** at 10:00 am 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 this month.

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.

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



**APRIL BAGPIPER
SUBMISSIONS
ARE DUE ON
SUNDAY, MARCH 22**

St. Andrew Prayer Chain: If you or a friend or loved one are in need of prayers, contact **Susan Cox** at susanmcox2017@gmail.com and your request will be added to the Prayer Chain.

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FINANCE REPORT FOR JANUARY 2026

St. Andrew is in the process of changing our bookkeeper and making other changes. As a result, our financials for January are still being worked out. As a result, the information we will provide for this report will differ from our standard monthly report. And, the numbers that are provided should be considered to be temporary and subject to change. Since we are most confident of our income numbers, this report will focus on the income side only.

January 2026 Income

<i>Description</i>	<i>Amount</i>
Pledges	\$25,990
Prepaid Pledges*	\$22,200
Non-Pledge	\$3496
Loose Plage	\$949
Interest	\$476
Other Income (Facility Use)	\$870
<i>Total January Income</i>	<i>\$53,981</i>

- This year, Prepaid Pledges will be shown in total in the month they are received.

St. Andrew is in good financial shape. Our current assets (bank balance, endowment fund balance, money market balance at TowneBank, and Ed Jones Investments balance) far exceed our current liabilities (earmarks and mortgage). The refinancing of our mortgage last year resulted in a reduction in our monthly payment from \$5200 to \$3226. Our endowment funds totaled about \$800,000 at the end of 2025.

~ Finance and Stewardship Committee

Endowment Funds

<i>General</i>	\$566,374.06
<i>Mission</i>	<u>\$238,779.73</u>
<i>Tot Endowment</i>	<i>\$805,153.79</i>

ST. ANDREW ENDOWMENT FUNDS

February 2026

A General Endowment Fund and a Mission Endowment Fund were established in 2004 to provide a continuing source of funds to support the ministry and mission of St. Andrew farther into the future than any of us can visualize. The General Endowment was made possible principally through the foresight and generosity of Cora Coffman who established a Charitable Remainder Trust with St. Andrew as the beneficiary. That trust and other memorial gifts made an initial investment of almost \$41,000 possible. The Ed Matson Memorial and gifts designated for Missions made an initial investment of \$2,300 in the Mission Fund possible. Both funds are invested conservatively in the Presbyterian Foundation's New Covenant Balance Growth Fund.

Gifts, bequests, memorials, planned gifts and other sources of income from members and friends of St. Andrew are invested in perpetuity and only the income generated from the investments is used to expand the ministry and mission of the church as directed by the Session. Endowment funds are not used for general operating budget expenditures unless needed for an emergency.

Significant additions to both funds have been made over the past 21 years. The total investment in the General Endowment is \$285,112 with a current market value of \$560,884. The total investment in the Mission Endowment is \$139,011 with a current market value of \$236,471.

Over the past 21 years, the Session has approved total distributions of \$41,251 from the Mission Endowment for 16 different food assistance agencies and two mission trips to our sister church in the Congo, Africa in 2017 and 2010. Just this past year, we contributed \$9,190 to Meals on Wheels, Suffolk Christian Fellowship Center, Mercy Chefs, IOW Christian Outreach Program and the Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia.

Over this same period, the General Endowment Fund Has contributed over \$61,000 for the J. Ettershank Celtic Cross, the Memorial Garden, a New Church Sign, two Defibrillators, Emergency Roof Repair, a Surveillance System, two HVAC Replacement Units and an AV System Upgrade.

Please note that this was done without touching any of the principal in these funds. The Endowment not only collects gifts and memorials for future generations but also contributes to the needs of the church and our community year-in-and-year-out.

You can participate in this exciting program by designating the St. Andrew Endowment as a beneficiary in a partial beneficiary of an IRA, in a Will or Other Estate Planning Documents. Gifts in honor or memory of loved ones are another easy way to participate. Some members continue to give a gift each year on their birthday with \$1 honoring each year of their life, a giving method that was suggested in the early days of the funds.

The current members of the Endowment Committee are **Clyde Harper**, **Rob Estes**, **David McKercher** and **Danny Lovell**. **Rev. Dr Lou Ventura** and the Finance Chairman **John Taylor** serve as ex-officio members. Talk with any of them for more information or if you are interested in serving on the committee.

~ Clyde Harper, Chairman

EASTER SUNDAY BREAKFAST

April 5th, following the worship service

The Fellowship Committee will be hosting an Easter Sunday breakfast after the 10:00 church service on April 5th. There will be **no Sunday School** classes that day. The congregation is invited to share a time of fellowship in the Atrium while enjoying a light breakfast buffet of finger sandwiches, deviled eggs, vegetable and fruit platters, and desserts. Take-out containers will be available for anyone who won't be able to stay. We are asking church members to help us by providing one of the various menu items. A sign-up sheet will be in the Atrium. Please consider donating a food item, and if possible, come early and help set up, or stay to help clean up. If you have questions, please contact **Angela Martin** at 757-705-5367. Thank you for your continued support to the Fellowship Committee.

Thank you to all who supported the following:

- Our **"Chili to Go"** youth fundraiser raised \$398 to help supplement Youth retreats and conferences.

~ Andrew Kowalski

➤ **Soup-er Bowl Results**

St. Andrew has done it again! The NFC bin received more than double the items donated by the congregation and the Seahawks more than doubled the score over the Patriots. Looks like we know our football here at St. Andrew. Thanks to everyone who was able to donate some non-perishable items to this worthy cause.

~ Mission & Service Team



March

Daphne Franklin	2
Ashley LeGrand	2
Michael Henson	3
Jeff Medrano	3
Ray Henson	5
Joe Justice	5
Debra Perry	5
Sylvia Ryder	5
Matthew Lemon	6
Kevin Missel	6
Lynne Wood	7
Gordie Fears	8
Kira Livingston	8
Matthew Newman	8
David McKercher	9
Ian Senter	10
Scott Endrusick	12
Malou Estes	12
Marion Hale	13
Hope Bradshaw	16
David Jornov	16
Leif King	16
Brian Tucker	16
Andrew Johansen	17
Mette Petersen	17
Jessica Gray	18
Muriel Ricker	19
Morgan Colonna	20
Joey Parrish	20
Colleen Ausman	21

March

Roger Estes	22
Laura Walker	22
Mary Meyers	23
Liz Fachin	24
Bill Roberts	24
Charlotte Griffin	25
Danny Lovell	25
Peter Stephenson	25
Emily Babyak	26
Sara Collins	27
Barbara Jenkins	27
Robert Ausman	28
Lindsey Walker	28
Sandra Burkhart	29
Penelope Franklin	29
Mike Topping	30
Kevin Hamilton	31



March

ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH

- 1 Rob & Carrie Estes
- 1 Paul & Sue Urie
- 9 Tom & Adair Nixon
- 13 Tom Seymour & Sara Collins
- 15 George & Debra Perry
- 20 Ron & Lou Ventura
- 21 Steven & Barbara Jenkins
- 21 Corrie & Charlie Walker
- 29 Tom & Loyce Bryan



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| March 22 | Easter Basket Donations due |
| March 29 | Palm Sunday, One Great Hour of Sharing & Deacon's Fund Offerings Received |
| April 2 | Maundy Thursday Service with Communion |
| April 5 | Easter Sunday with Communion (No Sunday School); Breakfast following worship |
| May 3 | Virginia Handbell Concert and reception |
| May 17 | "Music is the Message" Sunday |

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>Easter Basket Donations: March 1 – March 22</u>						
<p>1 10:00 Worship Service; Communion; Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday 11:00 Church School for all ages 12:30 – 4:30 Sampler Guild, CEB*</p>	<p>2 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00 Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*</p>	<p>3 No RSA* 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells</p>	<p>4 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) Kirk Night 5:45 Dinner - Italian 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Programs for all ages 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>5 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB*)</p>	<p>6 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels </p>	<p>7 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB* Tonight – Set your clocks ahead 1 hour</p>
<p>8 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages; St. Andrew 101 class </p>	<p>9 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00 Stitching, CEB* 6:00 Men's Dinner 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*</p>	<p>10 9:30 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 10:00 Presbyterian Women, Atrium 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells</p>	<p>11 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) Noon Widows Walk, Library Kirk Night 5:45 Dinner – Breakfast 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Programs for all ages 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>12 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB*)</p>	<p>13 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels 10:00 - noon Prayers & Squares SAH*</p>	<p>14 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*</p>
<p>15 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages Food & Clothing donations accepted for SCFC* 3-8pm Swim Team banquet</p>	<p>16 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00 Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*</p>	<p>17 9:30 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells</p>	<p>18 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) Kirk Night 5:45 Dinner: Soups 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Programs for all ages 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>19 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB*) Salvation Army Soup Kitchen – Bank St, Suffolk 6:30 Diaconate & Session</p>	<p>20 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels </p>	<p>21 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*</p>
<p>22 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages <u>April Bagpiper Info Due</u></p>	<p>23 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00 Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*</p>	<p>24 9:30 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells</p>	<p>25 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*) Noon Widows Walk, Library Kirk Night 5:45 Dinner: Potluck/ Comfort Foods 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Programs for all ages 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir</p>	<p>26 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB*)</p>	<p>27 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels 10:00 - noon Prayers & Squares SAH*</p>	<p>28 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*</p>
<p>29 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages <u>One Great Hour of Sharing collection: Deacon's Fund Collection</u></p>	<p>30 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00 Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*</p>	<p>Pastor Lou's Office Hours Mon – Thu: ~9:30 – ~4:00 Call the church office first to make sure she's in Office: 757-238-3550</p>				

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

The Bagpiper is a publication of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1885 Bridge Road (Rt. 17), Suffolk, VA 23433; Church Phone: (757) 238-3550; Church Office E-mail: standrew@standrewpres.us Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lou Ventura; revventura@hotmail.com Newsletter Editor: Beth Martin. St. Andrew Website: www.standrewpres.net Our mission is to love God, to grow in faith, and to love and serve others knowing that we go in the strength and company of God who is with us always.