



# The Bagpiper



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Suffolk, Virginia

April 2026

## MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2, 6:30pm at  
St. Andrew

Join your church family, and invite your friends and neighbors, for our Maundy Thursday service, which includes Communion. Led by Pastor Lou.



## EASTER EGG HUNT

Hop on over for our Easter Egg Hunt! Join us **Sunday, April 5 at 11:30am** (just after service & breakfast) for a fun-filled morning!

- Egg hunt (ages 2-12, Danny)
- coloring sheets and crayons
- family photo station (with your phone)

Bring the kids, invite a friend, and come celebrate with us—we can't wait to see you there!

## EASTER SUNDAY: April 5, 2026

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Please join us on Easter Sunday, April 5 at 10:00am for our Easter worship service, which includes Communion and music from the Chancel Choir. Church School classes will not meet. All are welcome to stay for breakfast and Easter Egg hunt following the service.

## 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 is 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 of the Fellowship Committee.



## FLOWERING CROSS

On Easter Sunday you are encouraged to bring fresh flowers from your yard to add to our outdoor Easter Cross (located in the grass circle in front of the church), which will serve as a visual reminder of the new life we celebrate on this Day of Resurrection. This is a great photo spot for family pictures.





Happy news: your Vision Team has completed, and the Session has approved, the Mission Study Report!

Many thanks go to this amazing team: **Robert Bradshaw, Liz Fachin, Doug Gordon, Amy Gray, Jody Luck, Kyle Madden, Denise McAlpine, Marc Richardson, and Frank Womble**, led by the incomparable **Steve Suhring**. It's rare to see a group bond and coalesce around a goal so quickly, and the depth of thought that went into every step of the process is evident in the final product. Well done!

The next step is to have the report blessed by the presbytery's Commission on Ministry (COM), which meets on April 7. The report has already been forwarded to our liaison, Elder Roxie Holder, as well as the general presbyter and the moderator of COM. I sit on that commission, so I will shepherd it through the process and report back as soon as I have a status. I have no concerns and fully expect it to be approved at this meeting. Once we have the COM approval, we will ask (at the same meeting) for permission to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). Again, I fully expect to come away from this meeting with both the report approval and PNC permission. The Nominating Committee has been engaged to begin searching for PNC candidates. More to come very soon, watch the bulletin announcements.

We continue to make progress moving emails to a centralized domain (@standrewpres.net) and hope to have that up and running by mid-April. We have moved the staff pay schedule from monthly to twice monthly, which is more in line with what other churches are doing. We held a new members' class (St. Andrew 101) with six attendees, many of whom plan to move to membership, which is exciting! Clerk of Session Heather Gregg and I continue to work together on updating the church rolls, a task that is important and never-ending.

I write this on the day of our final Kirk Night for the spring; Easter is right around the corner. I hope you will join me for our Maundy Thursday worship service, and that you are able to participate in the many activities that are planned for Easter Sunday. I will be taking vacation the week after Easter, and the Rev. Dr. Wilbur Douglass will be in the pulpit.

I remain overjoyed to be with you in ministry during this transition time—be encouraged, and pursue *shalom*!

*Lou*



THANK YOU! Those words seem totally inadequate. I am so very grateful for all of the get-well cards, phone calls while recovering from surgery. The Prayer Quilt has been such a blessing – one of our cats seems to find a way to cuddle up anytime that quilt is spread out on my lap. His only problem has been trying to figure out what those little strings are for. Each card has been special and I am saving them all. Recovery has been slow as far as getting my strength back – excursions out have only been for doctor appointments. I miss seeing everyone and hope to see all of you very soon. Blessings to each of you!

~ Sandy Poole

## **PRESBYTERIAN MEN**

Our next meeting of the Presbyterian Men will be held on April 13th, 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

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Presbyterian Women will hold their monthly meeting and Bible study April 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Atrium. Denise McAlpine will facilitate Lesson 8, **Remembering Jesus' Baptism** and Julia Pratt will provide the devotional. All women are welcome.

**Mid-Atlantic Synod Summer Gathering:** Presbyterian Women of the Synod will hold a summer Gathering June 11–14 at Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center, Harrisonburg, VA. There is a link to the brochure on their Facebook page *PW in the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic*. The theme is *We Belong to Each Other!* More information will be provided via SAPC PW communications. Early registration closes May 1.

~Loyce Bryan, PW Moderator



### **SAFETY COMMITTEE**

If you attended the Annual Congregational Meeting in February you were able to receive an overview of the new First Aid Kits with BleedStop recently purchased by the Safety Team. In addition, you received valuable training on the use of the Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs). If you did not receive the training, no worries, the Safety Team is working on developing an informational booklet for the congregation which will provide an overview of these products so that church members respond quickly and calmly to minor injuries or urgent situations until professional help arrives.

### **LOCATION OF THE KIT**

The kit is stored in two locations adjacent to the existing AEDs.

- Location #1: Main building in the hall by the bathrooms
- Location #2: Education building 2<sup>nd</sup> floor, right side

### **FIRST AID KIT**



### **AED**



The American Red Cross provides in depth review of the use of AED as well as where to find a local class.

<https://youtu.be/UDf1LGiTykY?si=9R4JdIliia83UMQtl>

### **GIFT CARD DONATION**

Congregational Care is collecting \$15 gift cards from fast food restaurants and coffee store chains to send to our college students in order to brighten their spirits during final exams. Gift cards can be given to **Liz Fachin, Rena Thompson**, or placed in the Congregational Care mailbox in the office. The deadline for collection is April 19. Thank you for your continued support of St. Andrew youth!



### **CALLING ALL COLLEGE GRADUATES!**

Is someone in your family graduating from college this year? If so, please contact Carol Wilson or Rhonda Gordon so we can include them in our plans!

~ Christian Education



### ***We are excited to announce the launch of our new, online member directory!***

Go to [members.instantchurchdirectory.com](https://members.instantchurchdirectory.com) or download the mobile app "Instant Church Directory." Detailed instructions to follow via email. Reach out to the church at [standrew@standrewpres.us](mailto:standrew@standrewpres.us) if you have any questions.

~ Outreach Committee



### **VISION TEAM UPDATE**

On March 19th, the Session at St. Andrew received, reviewed, and accepted the Mission Study Report submitted to them by the Vision Team. This is a major step forward for the congregation during our time 'between permanent pastors.'

The Mission Study Report will be reviewed and acted on (accepted or rejected) at the Presbytery of Eastern Virginia's Commission on Ministry meeting April 7th. Once accepted, PEVA will give permission to St. Andrew to form a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

The Vision Team is excited that the Mission Study Report, based on the Congregational Survey, is moving forward.

Please continue in your prayers as the selection of the PNC begins.



**CAMP HANOVER'S FAMILY FUN DAY**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 26<sup>TH</sup> 2-5PM**

Do you like archery, canoeing, crafts, campfires, nature walks, and food? If so, you may want to visit Camp Hanover to check out the camp and some of the activities children enjoy each summer at Camp Hanover, our closest Presbyterian camp. **Family Fun Day** is an Open House style event for checking out the camp, meet some of the staff, and explore the idea of sending your kids to camp this summer. If you're interested, get more information and RSVP at [CampHanover.org/fun-day](http://CampHanover.org/fun-day).

There is also a **Family Camp** scheduled for May 15-17 for families that might want to explore camping as a family. For more information or to register, visit [CampHanover.org/family-camp](http://CampHanover.org/family-camp).

**Summer camp sessions** at Camp Hanover begin in mid-June and run through Aug. 1<sup>st</sup> with sessions for elementary thru high school. Please see the posters for more information, or pick up one of the brochures in the Atrium.

**A NOTE FROM OUR RECEIVING TREASURER**

*The Pentecost offering will NOT be received this year, as the PCUSA has reduced the number of denominational offerings from four to three. IF you use the "Pentecost offering" envelope from your box of offering envelopes, that donation will be rolled into the Christmas Joy offering in December.*



**MAY BAGPIPER**  
**Submissions are due on**  
**SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026**

**SUFFOLK CHRISTIAN**  
**FELLOWSHIP CENTER**

**Donations due on April 19, 2026**

**Items most often needed**

**Most needed food items during cold weather include:**

Breakfast foods – individual-sized

hot and cold cereals

Hot drinks: hot chocolate, apple cider, tea bags, ground coffee (NO coffee pods)

**Clothing & Shoes** – with an

emphasis on items for men, as well as blankets, bedding, linens & towels



**SUPPORT TOYS FOR TOTS**  
**FOSTER FAMILY DAY**

Did you know that Toys for Tots does work to benefit children *all year* round? In June, Toys for Tots will be hosting a Foster Family Day for foster families in Isle of Wight. The event will allow foster families the opportunity to spend a fun day in the sun with a variety of fun activities and crafts for children of all ages. You can help support this event by donating any new or gently used towels.

The Mission and Service team will be collecting these items from **May 3 – 31**. Please leave your donations in the marked bins in the church Atrium. Thank you for your support!

~ Karen Topping

**Music Notes from Al**

The music ministry is running at full speed! Some upcoming events, in and outside of worship:

Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 pm – Virginia Handbell Consort will present its spring concert in our sanctuary – bring a friend!

Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at the 10 am service – our annual "Music is the Message" service bringing you the Word in song (and musical) form!

Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 pm – we will hold a service in the style of Taizé worship - Taizé worship is a contemplative, prayer service characterized by candlelit, meditative song, silence, and scripture.

Are you interested in sharing your musical gifts with your church family? Good seats, stands and positions are still available! If you have any questions about participating in the musical life at St. Andrew, please don't hesitate to speak with me.

See you in worship!

~ Al Reese, Music Director

## St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Finance Committee Report For Year-to-Date 2/28/26

	<i>Feb Amt</i>		<i>Monthly Budgets</i>
<b>Income</b>	\$82,800	Income	\$38,804
<b>Expenses</b>	<u>\$32,455</u>	Expenses	\$38,620
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$50,345</b>		
<b>Ed Jones Investments</b>	\$218,305	<b>Endowment Funds</b>	
<b>TowneBank Checking</b>	\$98,254	<b>General</b>	\$565,656
<b>TB Money Market</b>	<u>\$103,679</u>	<b>Mission</b>	<u>\$238,477</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$420,239</b>	<b>Total Endowment</b>	<b>\$804,133</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		<b>Mortgage</b>	
<b>Payroll &amp; Other Liab</b>	\$7,039	<b>Balance Due</b>	\$377,961
<b>Earmarks</b>	<u>\$110,736</u>	<b>Monthly Amt</b>	\$3,226
<b>Tot Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$117,775</b>		

**Net (Current Assets – Current Liabilities) = \$302,464**

Total income for February 2026 was \$82,800. Total expenses were \$32,455. This resulted in a large net income of \$50,345. Our income far exceeded our monthly budget, and our expenses were over \$6,000 short of the monthly expense budget. Our total income benefited largely by a substantial prepaid pledge amount of \$39,050. Our endowment funds grew slightly to \$804,133. Our current assets are very healthy. They exceed our current liabilities by \$302,464.

~Finance and Stewardship Committee



**COMPASSION SATURDAY IS COMING SOON!**  
**AND IT'S TIME ONCE AGAIN TO CLEAN UP THE CHURCH!**

**May 2, 2026**

This year our **Annual Spring Clean-Up** will be a combined event with the Mission & Service Committee who are hosting **Compassion Saturday** on **May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026**. In addition to our usual mulching, hedge trimming, and Pre-School Playground Clean-Up activities, we'll also place special emphasis on the Memorial Garden, do some flower planting, and a little roadside cleanup. This will be a day for the whole family, so please mark your calendars now, and help us make this our biggest Compassion Saturday yet!

Watch for announcements and more details in your Sunday Bulletin and on social media.

~ Bob Thompson



**St Andrew Presbyterian Church**  
**Volunteer of the Year 2025**

We are pleased to announce St Andrew Presbyterian Church's 2025 Volunteer of the Year is **Steve Poole**.

Steve was born on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1945, in Ventura, California, while his father was stationed in the United States Navy. As an infant he moved with his parents to Elizabeth City, North Carolina, and when he was 12 his family settled in Portsmouth. Steve met Sandy while at a Teen Club Dance in Portsmouth and in August of 1965 they married. This summer they'll celebrate their 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary.

Steve and Sandy are the proud parents of three children, Stephanie, Amy, and Matthew. They have four grandchildren: Rachel, Bryce, Natalie, and Evan. They love spending time together and especially love when those gatherings center around an outdoor fish fry.

Steve devoted more than 34 years as a civil servant with the United States Navy, retiring as a Ship Force Work Package Manager at the Shipyard in Newport News. His duties involved supporting aircraft carrier maintenance wherever that carrier happened to be, which took him to ports of call all over the globe. His early work with the USS George Washington led to his designation as a plank owner of that aircraft carrier.

Steve is an avid reader and is especially interested in history and genealogy. His two cats keep him and Sandy busy when he's not at St. Andrew working tirelessly to improve our church. Steve has said, "I'm not a teacher, a preacher, or a speaker. But I can do what I know."

We say that Steve knows plenty about how to get things done, and has made incredible contributions to the upkeep and beautification of our church. The countless hours he devoted last year made him the easy choice as this year's Volunteer of the Year.

***Congratulations, Steve!***



**SOUP KITCHEN**  
Thursday, April 16, 2026  
Salvation Army;  
Bank Street, Suffolk  
Cupcakes needed at  
St. Andrew by 9:30am

**PRAYERS & SQUARES QUILTING**

April meetings will be **Friday, April 10 and Friday, April 24** at 10:00 am in St Andrew Hall. Come enjoy time with other St. Andrew women and help make prayer quilts. If you've attended 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 in the Atrium and put in Frances Jornov's box or contact Frances Jornov ([francesjrnv@charter.net](mailto: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.

Would you like to learn to sew and make quilts?? Come to a meeting and Frances will get you started. 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, layering quilts and straightening the fabric shelves. And don't forget we do enjoy the visiting! Looking forward to seeing your smiling faces!

~Frances Jornov

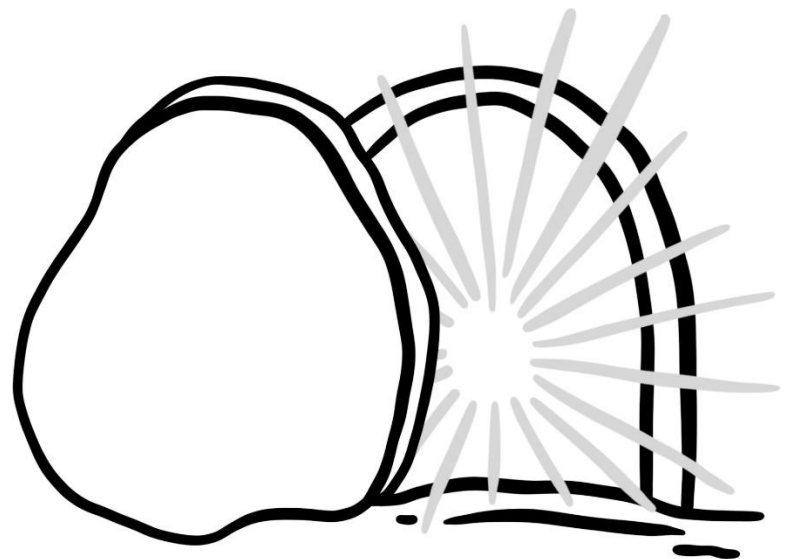
**St. Andrew Prayer Chain:** If you or a friend or loved one are in need of prayers, contact **Susan Cox** at [susanmcox2017@gmail.com](mailto:susanmcox2017@gmail.com) and your request will be added to the Prayer Chain.




Dottie Vann	2
Zie Medrano	3
Allen Zachary	3
Denise McAlpine	4
Rob Baker	6
Mark Buehlman	7
Frances Jornov	8
Betty Hare	9
Bo Hamrick	12
Mark Morrell	12
Carolyn Tucker	13
Beth Lyon-Suhring	14
Hannah Emert	15
Martha Goodwin	15
Mark Hendrickson	15
Mike Babyak	18
Michelle Malven	20
Andrew Kowalski	21
Sarah West	22
Margaret Gartman	24
Terry Phelps	24
Landon Estes	25
Robert Hayslett	25
Charlotte Johnson	25
Andrew Stephenson	26
Wayne Gwaltney	27
Lily Hayslett	28
Josh West	29
Ashley Poe	30
Neve Stone	30

<b>APRIL</b>	
3	Robert & Hope Bradshaw
18	Art & Tina Zachary
19	Andy & Helen Chapman
20	Roger & Malou Estes
28	John & Mette Petersen
29	Heather & Matt Moore
30	Cam & Angie Ebel
30	Kevin & Amy Gray

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please contact the church office at (757) 238-3550 or [standrew@standrewpres.us](mailto:standrew@standrewpres.us).



**Hope is Alive**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*)  7:00 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	2 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB*)  6:30 Maundy Thursday service with Communion	3 Good Friday	4 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*
5 10:00 Easter Worship Service; Communion (No Church School) 11:00 Churchwide Easter Breakfast & 11:30 Easter Egg Hunt	6 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00 Stitching, CEB*  7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*	7 9:30 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*)  7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	8 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*)  Noon Widows Walk, Library  7:00 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	9 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB*)	10 10:00 - noon Prayers & Squares SAH*	11 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*
12 10:00 Worship Service for all ages	13 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00 Stitching, CEB*  6:00 Men's Dinner 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*	14 9:30 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 10:00 Presbyterian Women, Atrium  7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	15 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*)  7:00 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	16 Soup Kitchen, Suffolk Salvation Army 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB*)	17	18 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*  5-9 RSA Recital
19 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School	20 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00 Stitching, CEB*  7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*	21 9:30 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*)  7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	22 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*)  Noon Widows Walk, Library  7:00 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	23 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB*)  6:30 Diaconate/Session Meeting; CEB*	24 10:00 - noon Prayers & Squares SAH*	25 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*
26 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages  <u>May Bagpiper Info Due</u>  2-5pm Camp Hanover Fun Day	27 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00 Stitching, CEB*  7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*	28 9:30-5:00 RSA* (CEB*) Last RSA  7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	29 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (CEB*)  7:00 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	30 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB*)	<u>Pastor Lou's Office Hours</u> Mon – Thu: ~9:30 – ~4:00 Call the church office first to make sure she's in Office: 757-238-3550	

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



May 2	Compassion Saturday
May 3	Virginia Handbell Consort
May 17	Music is the Message Sunday
May 24	Graduation & Teacher Sunday
May 25	Memorial Day; Office Closed

**The Bagpiper** A publication of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1885 Bridge Road (Rt. 17), Suffolk, VA 23433; Church Phone & Fax: (757) 238-3550; Church Office E-mail: [standrew@standrewpres.us](mailto:standrew@standrewpres.us) Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lou Ventura; [revventura@hotmail.com](mailto:revventura@hotmail.com) Newsletter Editor: Beth Martin, Office Manager. St. Andrew Website: [www.standrewpres.net](http://www.standrewpres.net) The mission of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is to be a covenant community of Christ's people seeking to know and do the will of God, through Jesus Christ.