



The Bagpiper



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Suffolk, Virginia

September 2026

FALL CHURCH SCHOOL

Classes begin on September 13

We extend a warm invitation to join our Sunday morning education program. All classes begin at 11:00am immediately after the morning worship service, and meet in the Christian Education building, directly behind the main building.

Adult Church School

Whether you've been studying scripture for years or are new to the faith, we welcome you to add your voice to our conversations in our adult studies.

- The **Jack Holladay Class** will be studying **Called, Hearing and Responding to God's Voice** by Susan Robb. Each week we will read Robb's book, watch Robb's video and participate in class discussions. The book focuses on six of the ordinary men and women God called and empowered to live lives of service--Abraham, Samuel, Esther, Jonah, Mary Magdalene, and the Beloved Disciple. God calls us, too, to bring hope and transformation to the world. Join the class to discover how to hear and respond to the unique call God is placing on your life. This class is led by **Frances Jornov**, and will meet in Room 206 on the second floor of the educational building.
- The Fall Semester in the **Challenge of Faith Class** will look at the book **How the Bible Actually Works** by Peter Enns. Is the Bible a divine rulebook with answers to all our questions or something even more wonderful? Join us as we look at how the Bible actually works. Scriptural knowledge is not required! An open mind and heart and a willingness to seek God's ways are all that are needed. Contact **Steve Suhring** (sfsuhring@hotmail.com) for more information or if you have questions on the class. The class will meet in Room 204 on the second floor of the educational building.
- **The Denominational Standard: The Present Word** is an in-depth Bible study for adults that dives

deep into God's word. It aims to have participants know the content of the Bible, understand the message of the Bible in light of their experiences and relationships, and be aware of God's redeeming love in our lives. This Fall the class will focus on Joshua, Judges, and Samuel. **The Christians in Action (CIA) Class** is led by **Karen and Mike Topping** and **Becky and Shaun Nagy**. This class meets in Room 101 on the first floor of the educational building.

Children's Church School

St Andrew's church school for ages 4 through elementary students is a workshop-based program which focuses on one Bible story each month. The theme for 2026-2027 is "Fear Not, for God is Here!" September's focus is Elisha. Classes will meet on the first floor of the Christian Education Building.

Youth classes

The Middle and Senior High School curriculum is "Follow Me: Biblical Practices for Faithful Living." They will meet in room 202 on the second floor of the Christian Ed building.

Nursery Classes

Our youngest members (infant to age 3) will meet in room 12 in the main church building where they will hear Bible stories, color, work on craft activities, and play with friends, all under the care of our team of teachers.

NEW SMALL GROUP BIBLE STUDIES COMING TO ST. ANDREW THIS FALL!

Wishing you could grow deeper in your relationship with God? Looking for real community within the St. Andrew congregation? Wanting to learn more about the Bible?

St. Andrew will be launching FOUR new small Bible study groups this fall, and we'd love to have you join us. Each group will meet twice a month in September, October, and November. You'll have a chance to study together, pray together, and develop deeper friendships within the church.

Feedback from the Congregational Survey facilitated by St. Andrew's Vision Team back in the Spring has led to this renewal of our small group ministry. The Christian Education Committee heard the call for deeper spiritual growth and now offers these new opportunities.

Our four new small groups will be:

Second and Fourth Mondays at 11:00 a.m., beginning September 14. Leader: **Deborah Banks**. Study material: *The Upper Room* devotional. Location: St. Andrew Cry Room adjacent to the sanctuary.

First and Third Tuesdays at 1:00 p.m., beginning September 1. Leader: **Susan Cox**. Study material: *Six Themes in Matthew* by James E. Davison. Location: church library.

Every Other Tuesday, beginning September 15, at 7:00 p.m. Leader: **Andy Chapman**. Study material: *Six Themes in Matthew* by James E. Davison. Location: Room 101 on the first floor of the Education Building.

First and Third Thursdays at 10:00 a.m., beginning September 3. Leader: **Beth Lyon-Suhring**. Study material: *Six Themes in Matthew* by James E. Davison. Location: Room 101 on the first floor of the Education Building.

Please give prayerful consideration to growing your faith through study, prayer, and fellowship with other seekers by joining a small group Bible study this fall.

Signup sheets are in the Atrium, or you can register by emailing **Beth Lyon-Suhring** at lyonsuhring@hotmail.com.

Study books will be available for purchase later this month.

KIRK NIGHT

**St. Andrew's Mid-Week Program for All Ages
September 30 through November 18, 2026**

What in the world is a 'Kirk Night'?
'Kirk' is the Scottish word for church,
so 'Kirk Night' is an evening spent at church.

At St. Andrew, Kirk Night is an evening that includes a meal and programming for all ages. The fall season of Kirk Night begins Wednesday, September 30. Come for the meal, join us for the classes, or take part in both. Here are the details:

Dinner: Kirk Night dinners are provided by a different church organization each week. Check the church bulletin on Sunday to find the menu for Wednesday. Dinner begins at 5:45pm and ends at 6:30 when classes start. The cost is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children, with a maximum charge of \$20.00 per family.

Classes: Join our classes for elementary-aged children through adults. Classes begin at 6:30pm and run through 7:30pm.

For Children

- 6:30 – 7:00 – Children's Choir – Join us for fun with music through singing, movement, and playing instruments! We will participate in worship on Nov. 15. Led by **Angela Hillis-Baurle** and **Liz Fachin**, in room 14, behind the sanctuary.

- 7:00 – 7:30 – Faith Through the Arts class - Explore scripture through art, drama, and puppetry. Hope to see you there! The class will meet in the Christian Ed building in Room 103 and will be led by **Liz Fachin** and **Angela Hillis-Baurle**.

For Youth

- 5:45 – 7:30 – Youth Group meets in Room 202 on the second floor of the education building under the direction of **Youth Director Andrew Kowalski**. Middle School and High School youth begin with dinner and enjoy fellowship and learning together.

For Adults

- 6:30 – 7:30: Simon Peter was just an ordinary person who heard and followed God's extraordinary call from Jesus and became the rock on which He established His church. Please join us for the Fall Adult Kirk Night class beginning Wednesday, September 30th at 6:30 PM in Room 204 for a study and discussion of Adam Hamilton's book ***Simon Peter Flawed but Faithful Disciple***. You may discover that you too have special gifts and abilities that God can use to make a difference in the world today just as Simon Peter did in his day.

Reading the book is not required, but there are four copies in the Church Library and it is available from Amazon in paperback for \$13.19 and Kindle e-book for \$9.30 if you wish. **David McKercher** will facilitate the discussion. All are welcome, so please join us. Your voice will enrich the discussion.

Great Bridge Presbyterian Church

invites us to join them on

September 13th at 7pm for

Sing for Peace

**A 25th anniversary, Sept. 11, 2001
commemorative ecumenical concert.**

**For more information contact Billye Brown
Youmans, GBPC's Director of Music at 757-547-4706**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will be meeting **September 8** in the St Andrew's Fellowship Hall at 10:00. This year's study is titled **United Through Christ Bound to Each Other** and Pastor Lou will be our guest speaker.

Our Rescheduled Dinner Social: Join us for dinner on September 3rd at 6:00 PM at **Gianna's Pizzeria & Restaurant**. All women of the church are welcome! Please sign up in the Atrium by September 1.

~ **Sue Urie**, Moderator

PRESBYTERIAN MEN

Presbyterian Men's Group Dinners Resume in September!

The next meeting of the Presbyterian Men will be Monday, September 14th, when we'll meet at 6:00pm, in St Andrew Hall. Dinner will be available for \$10.00. This month's speaker will be our very own **Frank Womble**, who has prepared a presentation on the role of Presbyterians in the Revolutionary War. This is one you won't want to miss!

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

~ **Bob Thompson**



*Thank You
Note*

Dear St. Andrew family,

Thank you so much for the flowers, the cards, and – most importantly – the prayers, during my breast cancer diagnosis, surgery, &

recovery.

I still have work to do, but having your support & continued prayers means the world to me.

Love,
Heather Moore



Saturday, September 26, 2026

One of our favorite service projects is just around the corner! We will be packaging over 17,000 meals to help feed God's hungry children around the world on **Saturday, September 26, 2026**. All ages are encouraged to participate and great fun and fellowship are guaranteed! We will need 60 volunteers with 6 coming early to help set-up at 8:00am. The event will begin at 9:30 and last about two hours. Please arrive by 9:00 to get checked in and ready. We will also need 6 volunteers to stay after to help with cleanup.

St. Andrew has funds budgeted for 17,712 meals at \$0.40/meal and a \$500 donation for providing clean water in addition to the food. As Mission & Service has done in the past, the congregation is challenged to contribute to a special offering to increase that number. For example, \$100 will provide 250 meals. **To contribute to this special offering for "RAH,"** mail your check to St. Andrew (1885 Bridge Road Suffolk, VA 23433) or place it in the offering plate **any time up to September 6th**. Checks should be made out to St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, with a note "RAH."

Register in the Atrium to participate or register on-line at **Event Page**: this is the link for our online Event page: <http://act.riseagainsthunger.org/event/e812131>. We are no longer using paper waiver forms, except for participants who do not have an email address. Those forms can be available on the day of the event, if necessary. We need as many volunteers as possible to sign the registration waiver online prior to the event. Anyone that registers online will get a reminder email about the event, as well as notification about when and where the meals you package are shipped.

~ *Mission & Service;*

~ **Kyle Madden, Karen Topping, Tom Bryan, & Rob Estes**

FLOWERS

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.

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.

PASTOR'S PEN

It's September, and that means a new school year, both inside and outside of the church! It's been an eventful summer, with retirements, hosting a large meeting, mission work, and a wedding, but I do love the back to school season almost as much as I love the Christmas season.

We have new small groups forming, four confirmands about to become full-fledged church members, and the preschool begins its new school year on the 9th. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Women are working with the Great Bridge PW circles to host a fall gathering at GBPC on September 19, and a team is being formed now for hosting the quarterly Presbytery of Eastern Virginia meeting here at St. Andrew in April 2027.

Elders are chatting about a few new initiatives for the fall that we're excited to share with you; one that we can announce now is special plans for Sunday, November 1, for All Saints' Day. We want to keep it a surprise, but try not to miss that worship!

Since I last wrote, we have said goodbye to beloved family members and celebrated their lives. We've made plans to dedicate Sandy's Butterfly Garden to honor **Sandy Poole**. Your Pastor Nominating Committee is hard at work reviewing candidate profiles. Your clerk of Session, **Heather Gregg**, and I have been updating the church rolls, and the Finance Team has been hard at work creating new counting processes and working with our new CPA firm to tighten up our financial procedures and reporting. The Safety Committee continues its work, and the IT Committee will be meeting to finalize the set up for our document storage system. We said goodbye to **Brenda Lovell** as our wonderful treasurer, who is "retiring" to focus on her health and keep up with that husband of hers. I'm so excited for the Rise Against Hunger event coming up in September—what an amazing way to care for God's people!

This is just a small snapshot of some of the remarkable work you all are doing in service to God. I am delighted to be a small part of your church life, and I look forward with great excitement for what God has in store for St. Andrew next! Be encouraged and pursue *shalom*!

Lou

DIACONATE DISPATCH

Greetings from your Deacons!

Over the summer your Diaconate has been busily keeping things moving forward, doing everything from hosting ice cream and Independence Day socials, launching a new way to collect prayer concerns, collecting over 60 backpacks for school children, AND getting the

church's air conditioning system fully operational in time for the wedding of the season! Let's just say St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is a very active place whatever the season.

This month we're highlighting the Congregational Care Committee. Led by **Rena and Liz**, this committee has the enormous charge of taking care of our own. This compassionate group sends out greeting cards, oversees and participates in visitations to our homebound members, visits the sick, and sets up meal trains for families in need. They also organize our Dinner for 8 program where our church members meet for dinners and fun outside of church, as well as the setting up of our Annual Outer Banks Retreat. And, if you've picked up this month's Upper Room Devotional, you can thank your Congregational Care Committee for that as well. The list of this committee's activities is long, and I can't list them all, but if your heart is calling you to help take care of our church members, please let **Liz and Rena** know, they'd love to have you join them!

~ **Bob Thompson**, Moderator of Deacons



MUSIC NOTES FROM AL

Welcome back from the Summer!

My thanks to the Combo for their unwavering service – these folks make everything look and sound so easy, and their flexibility is unmatched.

Are you looking to get involved in the St. Andrew Music Ministry? It's not too late to get involved - there is room in the Chancel Choir, the Bell Choir and the Combo.

The Chancel (singing) Choir rehearses on Wednesday nights from 7:30-8:30 (but when KirkNight is not in session, we begin at 7); the ability to read music is helpful, but not required – all ages from grade 9 and up are welcome! AND you have reserved seats for the service! We have already begun practice, but it's not too late to jump in!

The Celebration Ringers (handbell choir) rehearse on Tuesday nights from 7-8:15 – we could use a few more ringers – some of our bells are starting to feel lonely 😊 - the ability to read music is necessary for the bell choir. Our first rehearsal of the season is Sept. 1st.

Our Combo rehearses on Sunday morning at 9 in preparation for the service – our instrumentation is very eclectic and flexible – if you are an instrumentalist, we have a part for you!

If you are interested in sharing your talents, please speak with me after Sunday service, or contact me by phone (757) 416-2478 or via email music@standrewpres.net.

See you in worship!

~ **Al Reese**, Choir Director

UPDATES TO OFFERINGS FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE

As we transition to a new CPA and bookkeeper, we are also working to implement recommendations to better align our finance and treasurer processes with standard accounting practices. We want members to be aware of changes to how offerings are being collected and documented, and request your help with this process:

- Cash without an envelope put in the offering plate will be counted as “loose plate” only.
- Checks without an envelope in the offering plate will be matched where possible to your annual pledge/year-end statement.
- To best match offerings with your pledge or year-end statements, please put all offerings in an envelope in the offering plate. If you do not have SAPC printed envelopes, please use a pew envelope or a blank envelope. Please note the amount and what your offering is for on the envelope (pledge, special earmark, etc). If you do not have and want/need an SAPC printed offering envelope, please see either of our Finance Elders: **John Taylor** and **Kevin Gregg**. Printed envelopes are ordered every fall for the next calendar year.
- ALL donations, regular offerings, donations for a specific use or account, special collections, and special offerings should be placed in the offering plate. Please do not hand offerings or donations to individuals.

Offerings are being counted and prepped for deposit after collection, not after church.

Your attention to these changes will help us continue to implement best practices as we strengthen our financial processes for the future. Thank you!

HOMEBOUND VISITATION TEAM

Congregational Care would like to thank the volunteers who faithfully visited our homebound, hospitalized, and hospice congregants over the years. Please know we are revamping our Homebound program and looking for volunteers for 2026/27. If you are a frequent volunteer or brand new to this program, please note that we will have a whole team meeting in September. Again, thank you so much!

~ **Rena & Liz**, Congregational Care

ST. ANDREW CHURCH RETREAT

We need your input!

We are in the final planning stages for the 2027 Church Retreat, and we need to get an approximate idea of how many we'll have attending.

Each year in the Spring (usually the second week of March), St Andrew Presbyterian Church hosts a week-long retreat that's involves meals, social activities, devotions, and plenty of personal time. The week is divided into parts. The first half of the week is set aside for adults and couples, then the week concludes with a retreat for the St Andrew Youth Group. Congregational Care works hard to keep costs modest, and that's our aim again this year.

We've held the last few retreats in the Outer Banks, but reservation systems have changed and we must commit funding and numbers attending much earlier in the process. That means need an approximate head count right away!

Please let us know if you're interested in attending the retreat by signing the Interest Form located in the Atrium, or by letting **Rena or Liz** know. This does not commit you to attending the retreat, but rather gives us an idea of how many rooms we'll need to reserve. Once we know how many are interested in attending, we'll reserve the appropriately sized lodging and only then begin collecting signups and deposits.

If you have any questions, please see **Rena or Liz**-- we look forward to hearing from you!

PRAYERS & SQUARES QUILTING

September meetings will be Friday, September 11 and Friday, September 25 at 10:00am in St Andrew Hall. Come enjoy time with other St. Andrew members 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 in September.

We have many quilts ready to be dedicated and given to someone in need of prayer. Please don't hesitate to request a prayer quilt. 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** church member mailbox or contact her at francesjrnv@charter.net or 757-646-8955. Also, there are Pocket Prayer Squares in the atrium that you may take to include in a card or give to someone. They will fit in a

The Bagpiper

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 matching fabric for future quilts. And don't forget we do enjoy the visiting! Looking forward to seeing your smiling faces!

~ **Frances Jornov**

SOUP KITCHEN

September 17, 2026

Salvation Army;

Bank Street, Suffolk

Cupcakes needed at

St. Andrew by 9:30am



THANKS TO ALL THE CUPCAKE LADIES!



➤ Please keep **Tom Nixon** and his family in your prayers. Tom's wife **Adair** passed away Aug. 15, 2026 and the service will be held at H. D. Oliver in Virginia Beach on Sept. 12.



- 11 Laura & Wade Gibbs
- 11 John & Lois Taylor
- 13 Steve Suhring & Beth Lyon-Suhring
- 14 Jim & Theresa Carpenter
- 15 Glen & Elizabeth Fachin
- 17 Charles & Mary-Catherine Foster
- 18 Kevin & Trisha Hamilton
- 24 Joe & Frances Robb

If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or is listed incorrectly, please contact the church office at (757) 238-3550 or church@standrewpres.net

SUFFOLK CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CENTER FOOD PANTRY

Donations of food & clothes due on

September 20, 2026

Food Items most often needed: boxed mac & cheese, any pasta noodles, Hamburger Helper box kit, instant mashed potato packs, Ramen (any flavor), packages of individual-sized instant oatmeal, packages of individual-sized boxed cereals, shelf stable milk (individual-sized servings), peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti/tomato sauce, canned peas, canned or cups of fruit, canned chicken or tuna

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



- | | |
|---------------------|----|
| Trish Hamilton | 1 |
| Johnny Babyak | 2 |
| Don Golding | 4 |
| Jonny Luck | 4 |
| Angie Hillis-Baurle | 6 |
| Sue Harrison | 7 |
| Paul Smith | 7 |
| Ron Ventura | 7 |
| Jadyn Schoenberg | 8 |
| April Newman | 9 |
| Georgia Richardson | 9 |
| Howard Goodwin | 10 |
| Margaret Richardson | 10 |
| Kim Stephenson | 10 |
| Rosalind Boyle | 12 |
| Will Topping | 12 |
| Quinn Bradshaw | 14 |
| Dusty Poe | 14 |
| Joan Jensen | 18 |
| Megan Coston Bell | 19 |
| Theresa Carpenter | 20 |
| Justin Henson | 21 |
| Jim Topping | 21 |
| Val Jacques | 21 |
| Steve Poole | 22 |
| Jacqueline Cutler | 25 |
| Alexis Henson | 25 |
| John Caggiano | 26 |
| Bonnie Harper | 29 |

September, 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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		1 1:00 Small Group 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	2 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (SAH) 7:00 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	3 10:00 Thurs morning Small Group (CEB) 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB)	4 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	5 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*
6 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 NO SUNDAY SCHOOL <u>Last day to make a monetary donation to Rise Against Hunger</u>	7 OFFICE CLOSED 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & AI- Anon, Alateen – CEB*  LABOR DAY	8 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 10:00 Presbyterian Women Circle in Atrium 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	9 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (SAH) Noon Widows Walk; library 7:00 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	10 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB) 1:00 – 2:30 Small Group Mtg, library	11 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels 10:00 – 12:00 Prayers/Squares, SAH	12 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*
13 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages 12:30 – 4:30 Sampler Guild, CEB* 7pm Concert for Peace at Great Bridge Presbyterian Church	14 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 6:00 Presbyterian Men, SAH 7:00 AA & AI- Anon, Alateen – CEB*	15 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 10:00 Safety Comm, library 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	16 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (SAH) 7:00 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	17 Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, Bank Street, Suffolk 10:00 Thurs morning Small Group (CEB) 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB) 6:30 Diaconate & Session, CEB*	18 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	19 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*
20 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages <u>October Bagpiper Info Due</u>	21 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & AI- Anon, Alateen – CEB*	22 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells  <i>First Day of Autumn</i>	23 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga (SAH) Noon Widows Walk; library <u>Kirk Night Begins</u> 5:45 Dinner 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Programs for all ages 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	24 11:00 Lunch & Learn (CEB) 1:00 – 2:30 Small Group Mtg, library	25 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels 10:00 – 12:00 Prayers/Squares, SAH	26 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB* 9:30 Rise Against Hunger event (please arrive by 9am for setup)  Rise AGAINST HUNGER
27 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages	28 9:00 – 10:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & AI- Anon, Alateen – CEB*	29 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 7:00 – 8:15 Celebration Bells	30 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	Beth Martin's (Office Manager) Office Hours: Mon – Fri 8:30 – 4:30		 2026 <i>Hello September</i>

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