The Bagpiper

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Suffolk, Virginia November 2026

"Peas" on Earth

THANKSGIVING COLLECTION

St. Andrew will be participating in the Community Efforts Thanksgiving Food Drive again this year. **It is our goal to collect at least 250 cans of peas by November 15.** The peas that we collect will be distributed (along with other foods collected by other churches in the community) on Saturday, Nov. 21 to provide local families with food for Thanksgiving. Please add your donations to the collection bins in the Atrium. If you would like to help distribute food on November 21, please reach out to **Karen Topping**, **Kyle Madden**, **Rob Estes**, **Tom Bryan**, or **Danny Lovell.** Thank you!

~ Mission and Service Team

SUNDAY, NOV. 22 AT NOON



Please join in "Hanging of the Greens" on Sunday Nov. 22, 2026, immediately following the Sunday School hour. This is an opportunity for every one of all ages to prepare our church as we prepare for Christmas. Then stay for lunch; lasagna, salad and cookies provided by the Fellowship Committee.

This is an event you don't want to miss!

~ Sylvia Ryder, ruling elder

Worship Committee

CHRISTMAS CAROLLING!

Interested in spreading some Christmas cheer? Make sure to mark your calendars and join your church friends on **Friday, December 4th** at 3:30. We will meet in the Atrium and carpool to homes of church members and other friends to sing Christmas carols. Any questions, see **Deborah Banks,** #757-647-9157 call/text.

ANGEL TREE AND MITTEN TREE PROJECTS ARE UNDERWAY

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

Please sign up for St. Andrew Angel Tree Sign-ups--2026 Here's how it works in 3 easy steps:

1. **Click this link** to go to our invitation page on SignUp: **https://signup.com/go/EhLDcFO**

2. **Enter your email address:** (You will NOT need to register an account on SignUp)

3. **Sign up!** Choose your spots - SignUp will send you an automated confirmation and reminders.

There are "Angel tags" available for children and Senior tags for older adults. The tags include suggested clothing sizes and/or "wish list" items for age appropriate toys (if they were made available).

Members of the Mission and Service committee will be happy to help with sign ups during the collection dates. Feel free to reach out to one of us!

All Angel Tree gift items should be brought to the collection bin in the church Atrium NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, NOV. 22. 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 in time for their **December 1st deadline**.

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

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



TIME CHANGE!

Daylight-Saving Time ends on Sunday, Nov. 1, so don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, Oct. 31st.

DIACONATE DISPATCH

Last month I concluded the series of updates highlighting the four committees that serve on the Diaconate at St Andrew Presbyterian Church: Congregational Care, Mission & Service, Fellowship, and Property. The deacons who serve on these committees support a variety of activities within our church, and understanding how we're organized is an important part of life at St Andrew. They're an impressive group!

This month you'll see your deacons working the college student gift card collection, hosting the Peas on Earth canned food drive, overseeing the Angel and Mitten Tree gift collections, organizing the Hanging of the Greens event in the sanctuary, and completing a variety of maintenance activities as we prepare the church for winter.

These works for our congregation and Suffolk community help St Andrew Presbyterian Church ring in the holiday season that begins with Thanksgiving, and helps us celebrate God's love for humanity made visible through the birth of Jesus Christ. I wish everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving, and count serving as Moderator of Deacons as one of the many blessings I am grateful for this year.

~ ***Bob Thompson***

Moderator of Deacons

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will be meeting **Nov. 10** in the St Andrew Hall at 10:00. This month's study is Lesson 3 titled **Freedom in Christ** with **Frances Jornov** leading our lesson and **Sylvia Ryder** our devotional.

Come early to visit and catch up. All women are welcome!

~ ***Sue Urie**, Moderator*

CHRISTMAS MISSION OFFERING

Every Christmas season, PW solicits congregational support for a local and/or international organization that provides services that contribute to the well-being of the most vulnerable in all societies for our Christmas Mission. PW's Christmas Mission will be designated this year to support **Tidewater Pastoral Counseling** (TPC). TPC accepts donations to help individuals or families who need counseling support but do not have the means to pay for it.

The Presbyterian Women thank you in advance for the support of this worthwhile service.

Checks can be made out to "St Andrew PW" with notation "Christmas Mission" and placed in the PW mailbox, **Martha Shephard's** personal mailbox, or given to Martha directly. Cash donations are accepted. You may put your cash donation in an envelope marked "PW Christmas Mission." Donations will be accepted until mid-January.

~ ***Sue Urie**, PW Moderator*

PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S GROUP SERVES KIRK NIGHT, NOV 4TH!

This month's meeting of the Presbyterian Men will occur on **Wednesday, November 4th**, when we serve Kirk Night Dinner. We'll be serving meatloaf, mashed potatoes, green beans, and dessert. We'll need help from the men with food items, setup, serving, and cleanup, so watch for announcements at church and in your email. All are welcome to join us!

Also, please note that this Kirk Night meal will serve as our only meeting for November. We historically do not meet in December, so our next scheduled meeting will be January 11th, 2027.

As always, thanks for all you do in support of our St Andrew Presbyterian family of faith.

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



MUSIC NOTES FROM AL

Have you noticed anything different about the choir this Fall? I'd like to welcome (and thank) **Taylor Doughtie** as our accompanist! She approached me and offered her talents to play for the cantata, and was able to step right in on a weekly basis – we are thrilled to have her join us!

Speaking of the cantata, this year, we will present Joseph Martin's "The Poetry of Promise" on Sunday morning, December 20th during the 10 am. service. We look forward to our annual presentation of the word with music.

My continued thanks go out to the folks who play in the combo and ring in the bell choir – it's truly a joy to get to lead the music in worship with all of these wonderful people!!

My thanks to the A/V crew led by **Bob Boyle** that allows us to stream our services and make sure everyone can hear everything in cyberspace, the sanctuary, and the cry room!

If you're interested in lending your talents to the music ministry at St. Andrew, or would just like some more information, please speak with me after the Sunday service, or reach out to me via email: music@standrewpres.net – see you in worship!

~ Al Reese

PRAYERS & SQUARES QUILTING

Come join the Prayers and Squares group to create quilts and to enjoy time with friends. Our November meeting dates are **Friday November 6 and Friday November 20** at 10:00 am in St Andrew Hall. Please bring your current project. The Prayers and Squares members have been busy making quilts that will be given to the children for the Angel Tree gifts. We have completed the 40 children's quilts and 10 adult quilts for the Silver Bells. A special thanks to everyone who helped make this project a success.

If you would like to request a prayer quilt for a friend or family member, please complete a request form and put it in Frances Jornov's box or contact **Frances Jornov** (francesjrnv@charter.net or 757-646-8955).

Come join us! There are quilts that need quilting and ties to be added. There are also quilt kits that need to be machine sewn. There are three sewing machines in our closet – come join us and learn to sew. Remember, we do enjoy the visiting while we work! Looking forward to seeing your smiling faces!

~ Frances Jornov

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 on the Congregational Care Bulletin Board in the Office Hallway, or by letting Rena or Liz know in person or at congcare@standrewpres.net. 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!



The December 2026 & January 2027 newsletter will be a combined issue with info for both months due on Friday, November 20. (Please be aware of the Friday due date, to accommodate the editor's Thanksgiving schedule.

GET READY FOR THE RETURN OF DINNER FOR 8!

Friendships are formed around food, and faith grows when people break bread together. Dinner for 8 is beginning again at St Andrew for adults and offers an opportunity for groups of eight people to connect in a casual, relaxed atmosphere around food.

What is it?

Meals can be hosted in participants' homes, a restaurant or wherever the group decides works best for them. Your get together can be dinner, lunch, breakfast or any event that interests your group.

How Do I Join?

Simply fill out the registration form which will be available beginning in November 2026 through January 17th, 2027, on the Congregational Care Bulletin Board in the Office hallway.

What Does the Lead Host Do?

This person contacts the group members and coordinates the location, date, and food sign-ups.

How are the Dinner for 8 Groups Formed?

Once people have signed up, the groups will be formed and will be comprised of couples and singles with the intent to mix everyone together.

Who Cooks?

Usually, the monthly host will make a main dish, and others will bring sides or desserts. Some groups may choose to visit local establishments.

When Do the Groups Meet?

Groups will meet once a month in Feb, Mar and Apr with a final potluck dinner for all participants in early May.

Contact **Rena Thompson** or **Liz Fachin** in person or at congcare@standrewpres.net if have any questions.

~ Congregational Care Committee

SUFFOLK CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP CENTER

Donations due on November 15

(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.**

WE'RE STILL COLLECTING GIFT CARDS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS!

Deadline is November 15th!

We need your help! Twice a year, in March and October, our team collects $15 gift cards from the congregation to send to our undergraduate college students.

We mail the gift cards during the midterm and final exam seasons as a simple way to encourage and support our students while they are away at school.

To help your shopping, here are some of our most requested gift cards:

Starbucks
McDonalds
Burger King
Subway
Chick-Fil-A

We hope to have all cards collected by **November 15th**, so please get your cards to either Rena or Liz in person, or drop them in our mailbox in the office work area. If you have any questions, please let us know in person or at congcare@standrewpres.net.

Thank you for your generosity and for helping us remind our college students that they are loved, supported, and remembered.

DEACON'S FUND

Every 5th Sunday 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 who need some temporary help in making ends meet, paying unexpected medical bills, or emergency repairs.

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

NO SOUP KITCHEN IN NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER

Thanks to all who volunteered at the Soup Kitchen and provided cupcakes for the meals in 2026!



STAFF HOLIDAY BONUS REQUEST

Dear Members of St. Andrew,

Throughout the year, our Music Director, Office Manager, Preschool Director, Youth Director, Housekeepers, and Nursery staff enrich our church in many meaningful ways. To show appreciation for their dedicated service to SAPC, Session has approved the collection of donations toward annual Christmas bonuses so you too may show your appreciation for the impact they have on our church.

Please place your offering in the offering plate, or mail it to the office, with "Christmas Bonus" written in the memo line of your check by **Sunday, November 15th**. The entire amount collected will be distributed by the Personnel & Office (P&O) Committee directly to staff at the beginning of December.

Please thoughtfully and prayerfully consider your offering. If you have questions, see any member of the Personnel & Office Committee (**Bob Thompson, Heather Gregg,** and **Rev. Lou Ventura**).

Sincerely,
Personnel & Office Committee

KIRK NIGHT CONTINUES!

Join us on Wednesday evenings

Dinner at 5:45; $5 for adults, $3 for children

Classes for all ages at 6:30

Adult Class - **Simon Peter: Flawed But Faithful Disciple**

The class meets in Room 204 on the second floor of the education building, and it will be led by **David McKercher**.

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 4 - Presbyterian Men - Meatloaf

November 11 – Diaconate - Mexican

November 18 (Last Kirk Night for Fall) Preschool - Italian



Ethan Caggiano	1
Cyndie Price	1
Karen Sawtelle	1
Sayge Taylor	1
Carol Wilson	1
Jim Perkinson	2
Alyce Golding	4
Jennifer Ryan	4
Betsy Beard	5
Julia Gresham	6
Kristen Baurle	7
Kristina Zachary	8
Lauren Haverty	9
Heather Mushero	11
Thomas Goodwin	11
Barbara Saunders	12
Rena Thompson	12
Spencer Buehlman	14
Milly Myers	14
Judy Ulrich	14
Zach Walker	14

Laura Lanoue	15
Jill Byrd	16
Heather Moore	16
Rileigh Estes	18
Tom Nixon	19
Fran Kolipano	20
Travis Madden	21
Betty Woods	21
Lily Hendrickson	22
Evan Richardson	22
Faye Mayberry	23
David Saunders	23
Buddy Dye	26
Marie Dye	26
Kyle Gray	27
Jim Parker	28
Hunter Webb	28
Loyce Bryan	29
Ashlee Robb	29
Andrew Nagy	30





4	Mike & Tricia Haverty
9	Jack & Peyton Ellenor
18	Rhonda & Dave MacMelville
29	John & Kay Smith

NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						(Oct. 31) Set clocks back one hour tonight—Daylight Saving Time ends tomorrow!
1 Daylight Savings Time Ends 10:00 Worship Service; Communion 11:00 Church School for all ages	2 9:00 NO Yoga 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*	3 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 6:15 Celebration Bells	4 9:00 NO Yoga Kirk Night 5:45 Dinner: Meatloaf 5:45 Youth Group 6:30 Programs for all ages 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	5 11:00-1:00 12 Step Lunch	6 10:00 Prayers & Squares, SAH* St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	7 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*
8 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages	9 9:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*	10 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 10:00 Presbyterian Women Circle in SAH 6:15 Celebration Bells	11 9:00 Yoga, SAH* Noon Widows Walk, Library Kirk Night 5:45 Dinner: Mexican 5:45 Youth Group 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	12 11:00-1:00 12 Step Lunch	13 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	14 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB*
15 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages SCFC* Clothing Donations Due Last day for "Peas" and Gift Card Collections	16 9:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*	17 9:00 – 5:00 RSA* (CEB*) 6:15 Celebration Bells	18 9:00 Yoga, SAH* Last Kirk Night 5:45 Dinner: Italian 5:45 Youth Group 7:30 – 8:30 Chancel Choir	19 11:00-1:00 12 Step Lunch 11am Service for Evelyn Jones 6:30 Diaconate & Session meeting in CEB	20 10:00 Prayers & Squares, SAH* St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels Info due for Combined Dec 2026 & Jan 2027 Bagpiper	21 8:30 – 10:30 12-Step Program, CEB* 5:00 – 9:00 RSA* Sanctuary & Atrium in use
22 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages Noon Hanging of the Greens Angel Tree deadline	23 9:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*	24 No RSA* 6:15 Celebration Bells	25 9:00 Yoga, SAH* 7:00 -Chancel Choir	26 	27 St. Andrew Volunteers Deliver Meals on Wheels	28 8:30 – 10:30 12- Step Program, CEB*
29 First Sunday of Advent 10:00 Worship Service 11:00 Church School for all ages Deacons Fund Collection	30 9:00 Yoga, SAH* 10:00, Stitching, CEB* 7:00 AA & Al-Anon, Alateen – CEB*					

LOOKING AHEAD

Dec. 20 Christmas Cantata

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

Dec. 25 Christmas Day

Dec. 27 Annual Report info due

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

The Bagpiper A publication of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 1885 Bridge Road (Rt. 17), Suffolk, VA 23433; Phone: (757) 238-3550; Office E-mail: church@standrewpres.net Interim Pastor: Rev. Dr. Lou Ventura; pastor@standrewpres.net Newsletter Editor: Beth Martin, Office Manager. St. Andrew Website: www.standrewpres.net

The mission of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church is to love God, to grown in faith, and to love and serve others knowing that we go in the strength and company of God, who is with us always.