



ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6509 SYDENSTRICKER ROAD † BURKE, VA 22015

The St. Andrew's Plan

Mission Statement

St. Andrew's is a Christian community dedicated to worshipping and proclaiming God's love, to growing spiritually, and to serving others through outreach, prayer, education, and fellowship. We welcome all to join us on our faith journey.

AIM 1: St. Andrew's is a Christian Community dedicated to worship and proclaiming God's love...

OBJECTIVE #1

Create worship opportunities that meet the needs of the congregation and increase participation across services.

Outcome

- Match service days and times that best fit the needs of the church.
- Create diverse worship events that draw on different musical genres and liturgies that are consistent with Episcopal tradition, yet open, and that appeal to a wide range of ages and backgrounds.
- Incorporate the various talents of our parishioners in worship, especially youth.

Actions

- Conduct a congregational survey to assess services, including time/day of the week/options.
- Conduct talents and spiritual gifts inventory and track that information in ACS.
- Incorporate approved liturgies/music, such as "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and "Wonder, Love, and Praise" songs and hymns.
- Organize a task force to analyze worship times and offerings upon completion of the survey.
- Vestry members shall attend the varied services and talk with those attending to gain a better understanding of the need and/or desires.

OBJECTIVE #2

Create more opportunities for interfaith worship with other houses of worship in the Burke area.

Outcome

- Broader participation in interfaith activities.
- Explore new opportunities for sharing with others beyond those that currently participate. (This could also be a community building opportunity, such as a shared picnic with another group).

Actions

- Participate in the annual Thanksgiving service and even host the annual event. As part of the 50 year anniversary, host a combined parish with picnic with St. Christopher's, Springfield on the expanded church campus.
- Combine youth groups from St. Christopher's and Good Shepherd for occasional social events to bring larger amounts of young people together.

OBJECTIVE #3

Serve the worship needs of the older community, such as Greenspring.

Outcome

- Increased membership by residents of local retirement communities.

Actions

- Determine the needs of our parishioners, especially the elderly, based on demographics and determine if those needs are being met. What can the youth and/or others do to help those in our congregation with special needs (babysitting, doctor appointments, meals, tutoring, etc.)?

OBJECTIVE #4

Strengthen the worship and spiritual experience of our parish.

Outcome

- Music that enhances the worship across genres.
- Spiritual offerings beyond Sunday morning worship.
- Worship that is contemplative, prayerful.

Actions

- Take inventory of the books available in the pews and determine if replacements or additions such as Wonder Love and Praise are needed.
- The campus will be evaluated for use for opportunities for worship/prayer/meditation such as a Labyrinth or other outdoor meditation space.
- Acquire variety of musical instruments that would work well with a diversity of musical offerings.

AIM 2: St. Andrew's is a Christian Community dedicated to serving others...

OBJECTIVE #1

Be a regional leader in community outreach. Serve local ministries by assessing the changing needs of the Burke and other area communities when and where the needs are.

Outcome

- A clear method for identifying and assessing ministries to determine the use of funding and the need.
- A campus that can effectively and comfortably host a myriad of missions.
- A kitchen that is appropriate for the congregation, outreach, fellowship, and is up to code.
- Restrooms that include showers and laundry facilities.
- An annual review of current local outreach support to identify those that are doing well and those that are not.

Actions

- Identify possible and new opportunities to serve our local community (e.g., prison, children at risk, human trafficking).
- Strengthen and build relationships with area schools, other religious houses, and local government agencies.
- Explore joining an organization such as VOICE to help empower others in their efforts to reduce homelessness, lesson hunger, etc.
- Become a "service hours" location advertised to local schools.

OBJECTIVE #2

Support and participate in the wider Anglican Communion, The Diocese of Virginia, and The Episcopal Church through outreach and education.

Outcome

- Support the capital campaign of Shrine Mont in a meaningful way.
- Follow the Virginia Plan with respect to our support of the Diocese of Virginia.
- Give annually to Episcopal Relief and Development.
- Participate in the 1% plan to support theological education.

OBJECTIVE #3

Strengthen our relationships around the world through prayer and outreach.

Outcome

- Provide information about opportunities around the world that could be enhanced by the generosity of St. Andrew's.
- Continue the partnership with St. Andrew's, Ramallah. More effort should be given to non-monetary ways to be in community with that parish.

OBJECTIVE #4

Reaffirm and communicate a commitment to increasing outreach proportionally.

Actions

- Communicate more effectively the many ways St. Andrew's gives, especially through members of the parish sharing with others.
- Highlight the community of St. Andrew's, Ramallah to give parish knowledge of that community.
- Communicate the commitment to outreach.

AIM 3: St. Andrew's is a Christian Community dedicated to forming individuals in Christian discipleship...

OBJECTIVE #1

Increase the education of Christian educators, adults, youth, both inside the parish and outside, by developing resources for the congregations and innovative training opportunities.

Outcome

- Recognize differing learning styles and demands on time.
- Empower folks to do the work of evangelism.
- Growing the number of folks regularly engaged in formation.

Actions

- Assess those programs and times and places that have been highly successful and use that information to shape the future.
- Draw on excellent expertise outside of the parish to bring new insights to the congregation, including using them with the youth.
- Explore digital or "e-formation" methods for increasing knowledge and participation, even beyond Sunday mornings.
- Create a Vacation Bible School Program that is more accessible and attracts more inside and outside community members, such as offering VBS in the evening or at other hours rather than 5 weekday mornings.
- Develop and fund a speakers' bureau, at least for an annual speaker.
- Study feasibility of a part-time youth director.
- Conduct a survey to assess needs and more directly determine appropriate programs.

AIM 4: St. Andrew's is a Christian Community dedicated to building community...

OBJECTIVE #1

St. Andrew's will be a community for one another not only during times of corporate worship but in fellowship, formation, helping, and growing.

Outcome

- Offer opportunities for the elderly outside of Sunday morning.
- Collaborate with community leaders, businesses, congregations, and even some non-profits show how St. Andrews can get involved and help our neighbors and how we can create opportunities with our partners to help our community.

Actions

- Develop an appreciation opportunity for all lay volunteers, not just formation teachers, preschool teachers, acolytes.
- Create an elder night out similar to parents' night out.
- Publicize the foyer groups, and other activities, especially faith-based issues, that may be of interest to our parish family.
- Highlight/publicize the accomplishments of our teens and young adults (short/long term).
- Publicize what St. Andrew's is doing in local/neighborhood newspapers and offer opportunities for our neighbors to join in.
- Examine new "Coffee Hour" opportunities for the 8:00 a.m. Sunday service.
- Conduct a survey to assess needs and more directly determine appropriate programs.

AIM 5: St. Andrew's is a Christian Community dedicated to being stewards of our resources for use of ministry today and for future generations...

OBJECTIVE #1

Develop a more robust stewardship emphasis and ongoing campaign which highlights annual giving (pledging), estate planning, a capital campaign, and environmental care of our property, as a witness to the biblical obligations of stewardship and to recognize that the campus is a crucial part of the work at St. Andrew's.

Outcome

- Strengthen green sensitivity across the church.
- Build spaces that are aesthetically pleasing and functional.
- On-campus projects that are conducted in a more environmentally friendly way.
- Develop the initial phase of a capital campaign to determine available funds and how those will meet needs of the developed property.
- Increase education regarding tithing and proportional giving, as well as estate planning.

Actions

- Teach parishioners about sustainability both in the church and at home.
- Perform energy audit.
- Commit to design for local vegetation, sustainable products, and to modify spaces that are aesthetically pleasing and functional, with particular attention given to kitchens, bathrooms, new space, lighting and other energy products.
- Investigate the use of the property for a community garden.
- Encourage and provide more recycling opportunities.
- Utilize LEED building specifications/codes for all physical plant needs.
- Increase education regarding what stewardship means, and makes this education a year-round program.
- Poll the congregation to better understand giving trends – why they give.

OBJECTIVE #2

Develop a disaster plan; we recognize that disasters can range from a medical emergency during Sunday worship, to a bad storm causing damage to the building, to a pandemic that disrupts the life of the parish. St. Andrew's will educate itself on various scenarios and have ready responses and strategies to face future disasters.

Outcome

- A church that has the appropriate supplies on hand to deal with a medical emergency.

Actions

- Create a plan to deal with a disaster giving special attention to significant loss of income.