



The Net

*The Monthly Newsletter of
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Burke, Virginia*



RECTOR
THE REV. WILL PACKARD
will@standrews.net

Dear Friends in Christ,

Why do we need Advent? We can just skip to the "good" part and begin singing our Christmas songs, Mariah Carey, and celebrating Jesus' birth. As Christians we proclaim Jesus' birth, death, Resurrection, and Ascension year-round, so why not. We can skip mean Uncle Scrooge and have nice Uncle Scrooge on Christmas Day. We can fast forward to the end of It's a Wonderful Life when the angel gets his wings. Clark W. Griswold, Jr. would not need to endure the weeks of family and work drama leading to a happy, yet messy ending. We can go straight to the manger and not worry as much about the rest of the story of our Salvation History. We need Advent as much as we need these pieces of our favorite Christmas past times. We need the whole story and to live into Advent, not as a miniature Lent, but as its distinct season recognize both the beginning and the end of the story of our redemption.

The celebration of Christmas in the secular world began several weeks ago with the first onslaught of Christmas candy following the purge of Halloween treats. Each year the Christmas music begins a little earlier and our desire to observe Christmas earlier continues to grow. This desire grows as does our own expectations of an ideal Christmas season. We wait expectantly for our kids to come home from college. We try to celebrate as a means of coping with dire news from around the world. We need to use these decorations since they are the primary occupant of our household storage! It is ok to lean into these parts of our culture while also maintaining an Advent. I know that it is a near impossibility to completely ignore the world around us. What is it exactly that we need from Advent?

Advent, like the Sabbath, exists for us and marks a distinct time in our liturgical calendar. The word means "coming" as it reminds us of the coming celebration of the Incarnation and that Christ will come again. This season of preparation also exists during the darkest part of the year. We are reminded of this when we "should" carry a jolly

demeanor everywhere and yet are reminded of the stark reality of our grief. This is a grief produced in loss in many forms as we long to see people who have died and as we long for times in the past. We sit in this tension remembering that this life is not it and that we have an eternal hope which began in the manger and which is promised to us.

To observe Advent is to spend time with this eternal hope begun through our Hebrew Scriptures, found in the Incarnate Son, and fulfilled in the death and Resurrection. We continue to listen to our call as disciples in this time and where we are going as St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, both in the near-term and for many, many years to come. Observing Advent is not rejecting joy, but remembering and contemplating the source of our true joy founded in an Incarnate Christ that promises to come again. I ask us in this season of Advent, to live into this story of redemption and how we as St. Andrew's are called into the future.

We need Advent as a people of Christ to reflect and acknowledge our own redemption and the hope. Our observance of Advent diminishes any expectations set by ourselves and by our culture and enables us to live into the expectations given to us through Christ. We can pause for regular prayer, reflect upon Scripture, and be gentle on ourselves with the intense social, financial, and energetic pressures of the season. I invite you to step aside, even if for Sundays in Advent or Wednesday mornings at 9:30 (even when school is out) to let Advent happen. We need Advent which enables us to celebrate the Incarnate God at the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ anew!

Faithfully yours,

Will

VESTRY NEWS

Worship Services

Wednesday @ 9:30 AM
Saturday @ 6:00 PM
Sunday @ 8:00 & 10:00 AM

Formation

Sunday @ 11:30 AM

Bible Study

Sunday @ 9:00 AM
Wednesday @ 10:30 AM

Choir Rehearsal

Thursday @ 7:00 PM (Adult)

AA Meetings

Tuesday @ 7:00 PM
Friday @ 8:00 PM

ESOL

Tuesday @ 9:30 AM

Office Hours

Monday	9 - 4
Tuesday	9 - 4
Wednesday	9 - 4
Thursday	9 - 4

Net Submissions

If you have an article for the Monthly Net, please email it to Emily (emily@standrews.net) no later than the 20th of the month. All submissions are subject to approval.



SENIOR WARDEN

JEFF REBA

srwarden@standrews.net

I want to thank everyone who attended the November 23rd presentation on our land use discernment, as well as those who participated in the listening sessions thus far. The questions, reflections, and concerns shared have been thoughtful and deeply appreciated. If you have not yet taken part in a listening session, I encourage you to join one of the upcoming gatherings. Your voice matters, and we hope to hear from as many of you as possible.

Over the past two years, the Vestry and Land Use Task Force have been exploring how our property might best support the mission and future vision of St. Andrew's. This included reviewing our history, reflecting on the long-term needs of the parish and the Burke/Springfield community, and gathering information about possible uses for our land. We now find ourselves entering a new and critical stage of discernment that invites the whole congregation to participate.

The small-group listening sessions will allow us to listen carefully to one another, discuss our

shared values, and envision the future of St. Andrew's. The purpose of these sessions is not to rush toward a decision, but to reflect carefully and to remain open to where God may be leading us. If you are unable to attend a session but would like to discuss further, please contact me at srwarden@standrews.net, and I will be happy to schedule a time to talk.

This decision does not belong solely to the Vestry, but to the congregation. When the time comes, after we have listened to each other, the parish will vote. Before we reach that moment, we are called to pray, to ask good questions, to listen carefully, and to imagine faithfully what God might be inviting St. Andrew's to become in the next chapter of our shared ministry.

This is one of the most consequential decisions our parish has ever faced. We ask that you participate, reflect deeply, and hold this process in prayer. Together, we have the privilege and responsibility of shaping what St. Andrew's will be for the next generation, not only in how we use our land, but in how we live our mission, grow our ministries, and serve Christ in our community.

PRESCHOOL NEWS



PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR

TAMI PHILLIPS

preschool@standrews.net | (703) 455-8458

I love listening to the sounds of children playing on the playground. It helps me remember just how powerful learning through play is for a young child. As the children play, I hear them telling stories, pretending, walking up the slide, pulling friends in wagons, and decorating a Christmas tree in the gazebo. The natural world is a wonderful resource for helping children meet their early learning goals.

I continue to be amazed at a classroom of children growing into a community of learners. At the beginning of the year our students are unfamiliar with each other, not sure of routines, and wondering why they need to leave their house to come to us. Familiarity and trust lay the groundwork for a powerful learning community. Plentiful unstructured and structured playtimes create a place where children take chances, make mistakes, discover new things, build relationships, and ask thoughtful questions. This transformation is beginning to happen in our classrooms. It is a beautiful reminder of the importance of an engaging classroom filled with

a variety of opportunities for play.

We look forward to Christmas Programs the week of December 15th followed by a cookie reception and Santa visit! Look for a beautiful Nativity scene designed by our students in the Parish Hall.

We will begin preschool registration for the 2026-2027 school year January 13th for returning students, siblings of alumni, and Parish families. Our 2026-2027 registration opens to the community February 3rd. After February 3rd, registration becomes space available for all families. For more information, contact our preschool office at 703-455-8458 or email preschool@standrews.net. On our web site preschool.standrews.net you can view a virtual tour of our program and complete an inquiry to receive more information about enrollment or begin the registration process through our software ChildPilot.

Our preschool families are a blessing to us. We feel fortunate to be a special part of each child's educational journey.

OUTREACH

FACETS Giving Tree

Jen Koerner | facets@standrews.net

The St. Andrew's Giving Tree is back for another year! This year we don't have a specific wish list for children, so we're running a holiday **gift drive** for FACETS and a **glove drive** (children's and adults' sizes) for The Lamb Center.

We will still have ornaments for you to take home, but instead of attaching them to wrapped presents, we invite you to write your name on them and hang them back on the tree when you bring in your gifts. (This is optional; you can donate a gift or gloves without taking an ornament).

We also have an online option (<http://tiny.cc/facetstree25>) to purchase gift cards that will allow FACETS to provide gifts to additional children.

Please bring your **unwrapped gifts** to the church by **Sunday, December 14th** and **place under the Giving Tree**. Thank you all for your generosity and help in making sure families in our community have a wonderful Christmas!

If you're interested in **helping sort and deliver gifts to FACETS** the week of 14th, please contact Jen. Total time commitment would be around 1 hour.



STEWARDSHIP

2026 Stewardship Drive

Stephanie Meadows | stewardship@standrews.net

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge for 2026! Our goal is **\$825,000** and **175 pledges**.

We are now at **90% of our pledge amount** but only **73% of our number of pledges**. You can help raise both those numbers by pledging! Remember, you don't have to give an arm and a leg. Give what you can, encourage your church friends to give what they can, and you will help make sure St. Andrew's can continue its mission of serving our community and each other.

Call or email the office if you have any questions about pledging to St. Andrew's. Blank pledge cards are available at the church. You can pledge via mail, in person, or [online](#).

Phone: (703) 455-2500; Michelle Ramsdell (michelle@standrews.net).

St. Andrew's 2026 Pledge Drive



Prayer List

Tony Durso
Don Taggart
Marlene Taggart
Eve Albanese
Larry Packard
Rich Roerig
D'Arcy
Ron Mason
Susan Scott
Barbara Klix
Jeff Dutton
Sarah Lillard
Laura Sabo
Mary Richardson

Cathy Harman
Dave Lewis
Kit Thompson
Lauren Bowdren
Scootie Prior
David Nies
Gene Gironde
Dan Emrick
Daniel Leong
Roy Eichhorn
Carl Jones
Donna Daugherty
Carol Robinson

Bill Hartig
Olivia
Felix

Eddie Fortune
Bishop Shannon Johnston
Bill Armour
Wally Morgan
Eric
Kevin Linehan
James
Phillipa
David Humphrey
Ro & Rob Africano
Karen Brannam
Carol Payne
Donna Fortune
Pam Mowry
Paula Masterson
Dennis Williams
Tom & Beth C.

Jane Hoge
Georgiann McDaniel
Peggy Nordin
Marla Cook
Jane McDonald
Janice Crosby
Susan Henderson
Janet Williams
Terri Bennett
Bev Kraker
Rodney Green
Zayne Pape-White
Stan Tchorz
Bronwyn Alleman
Nora Herrera
Valerie Stevenson
Jon Wise

Chuck DeBellevue
Mike Columbus
Ronda Rouse
Dani Bryan
JoVanna Tawney
Brian & Elyse
DeWyngaert
Howard Moses
Stewart
Doug Connell
Fern Jennings
Jim Myhre
Barbara Pelletier
Mark G.
Millie Nash

Departed

Bob Vogel (father of Karen Nies-Vogel)
Glenn Watson (cousin of Tom Watson)
Patricia Matthews (sister of Paul Foley)
Mark Reisbord (friend of Alan Moser)
Ani Wells (family of Chris Umberger)
Nellie Moser (mother of Alan Moser)
Dayne McDaniel (family of Karen Hilber)

ENDOWMENT NEWS

You can share your faith beyond your lifetime by careful estate planning which includes St. Andrew's in your will. During your lifetime you will have the joy of knowing that whatever you do not use in this life will continue in ministry through St. Andrew's after your death.

endowment@standrews.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Land-Use Listening Sessions

The Rev. Will Packard | will@standrews.net

Thank you to everyone who has joined us for a listening session about our ongoing land-use discernment. As a reminder, no decisions have been made; the Vestry is intentionally waiting to listen with the congregation for God's call. If you were unable to attend, another presentation will be scheduled soon.

We continue with the most important phase of this work: our parish-wide listening sessions. To allow space for meaningful reflection, each session will be limited to 30 current attendees of St. Andrew's. I encourage you to sign up for one of the upcoming sessions. Your prayerful participation is essential as we seek God's direction for our parish's future.

Click the links below to register. Sessions with fewer than 5 people will be canceled.

[Session #6 Thurs., Dec. 4 @ 2:30PM](#) - Changed to online ([Zoom link](#))

[Session #8 Sunday, Dec. 7 @ 1PM](#) - In Person

[Session #7 Friday, Dec. 5 @ 10AM](#) - In Person

[Session #9 Sunday, Dec. 7 @ 3PM](#) - In Person

Christmas Poinsettias

Emily Nein | emily@standrews.net

It's time again for the tradition of decorating the church for Christmas with your gifts of poinsettias. Each poinsettia is a visual symbol of your gift, given as a memorial for a loved one or a thanksgiving for a blessing in your life. Your thanksgivings and memorials will be printed in the Christmas service bulletins.

Envelopes for your donations are located on the bulletin board outside the office. Suggested donations: \$25. **Please return your filled-out envelope to the office by Wednesday, December 17th.**



Welcome Bag Ministry

Karen Spencer | welcome@standrews.net

Want to greet newcomers to St. Andrew's on your own schedule? Join our Welcome Bag Ministry! Volunteers deliver a pre-made bag of church info—plus a homemade treat—to new attendees, ideally within a week or two of their first visit. Serve when you can, as your schedule allows. Interested? Email Karen Spencer for more information.

Greening the Church—Magnolia Branches Needed

Martha Turner | flowerguild@standrews.net

In preparation for the Christmas season, the Flower Guild is asking if any parishioners have easy (and legal) access to Magnolia trees and are willing/able to donate some of their branches. Branches will be needed the weekend of December 13th/14th. Please contact Martha Turner for more information or if you can help. Thank you!

(P.S. The new magnolia tree in front of the church is off limits for the next 25 years.)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

It's Pageant Time at St. Andrew's!

The Rev. Maria Maguire | maria@standrews.net

Each Christmas Eve, our children bring the Nativity story to life in our joyful Christmas Pageant — and everyone is invited to be part of the fun! There's a role for every child; plus teens and adults can help with costumes, props, ushering, or other "behind-the-scenes magic."

Mark your calendars:

- Dec 14, 11:30–12:30 – Costumes
- Dec 21, 11:30–12:30 – Rehearsal
- Dec 24, 2:00–3:30ish – Dress Rehearsal
- Dec 24, 4:00 pm – Pageant



We love having kids lead the way, because as Jesus reminds us, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children." (Matthew 11:25)

Whether your child wants a speaking role, a non-speaking role, or you'd like to help behind the scenes, there's a place for you in our pageant family! [Fill out a form to let us know how you'd like to join in](#) — **one per child or volunteer, please.** Let's celebrate the wonder of Christmas together -- with a little sparkle, a lot of joy, and the Christ-child leading our way!

Feast of St. Andrew

The Rev. Will Packard | will@standrews.net

The Feast of St. Andrew is on November 30 and was observed this year on December 1. Our own Seminarian, Anne Alexis Harra gave her senior sermon at Virginia Theological Seminary on this occasion. This is quite fitting for a seminarian from St. Andrew's! [You can view that sermon here.](#)

Meal Ministry

Karen Spencer | welcome@standrews.net

Love caring for others? Join our Meal Ministry! When someone in our congregation needs support—whether welcoming a new baby, grieving a loss, or recovering from surgery—we can step in with a meal. Homemade or store-bought, every gesture matters! Volunteer when you can, as your schedule allows. Interested? Email Karen Spencer to learn more.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 7, 2025

Wreaths Across America Bake Sale: Part II

The Rev. Maria Maguire | maria@standrews.net

Sunday, December 7th, before and after the 10:00 a.m. service, EYC will be selling baked goods and other homemade items to raise funds for laying wreaths on veteran's graves at Arlington National Cemetery. Stop by and support our youth, either in conversation and words of encouragement or financial support!

DECEMBER 7, 2025

Women's Fellowship: Cookie Exchange

Karen Hilber | womensfellowship@standrews.net

Ring in the Christmas season with St. Andrew's friends at our Christmas Cookie Exchange! Bring two dozen cookies of any kind to share on **Sunday, December 7th**, from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. **RSVP for location address.**

Cookies can be homemade or store bought- it's all about the fellowship! Festive hot and cold beverages, hors d'oeuvres, and more cookies will be provided. Everyone gets to mix and match two dozen cookies to take home with them! I hope to see you there!



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 12, 2025

Men's Fellowship: Coffee to Go or Stay!

Darren Williams | mensfellowship@standrews.net

Please stop by the West Springfield Panera (Rolling Rd and Old Keene Mill Rd) on your way to work, or stay and have coffee and a bagel. Be it 5 minutes or an hour, we'd love to see you for some fellowship on **Friday, December 12th**, between 7:30 and 8:30 a.m.!

DECEMBER 14, 2025

FoMA Concert Series: Karen Ashbrook & Friends Benefit Concert

foma@standrews.net

Join us on **Sunday, December 14th at 4:00 p.m.** for our annual seasonal celebration with Karen Ashbrook, joined by Andrea Hoag (violin), Sharon Knowles (harp), and Pat Egan (vocals, guitar). These four internationally-known performers have crafted a delightful program of Celtic songs and tunes to celebrate Christmas, winter, and the New Year. The program has a wide selection of traditional and contemporary airs, jigs, and reels from Ireland, Scotland, the Isle of Man, and Brittany. All donations from this concert will be given to FACETS and ECHO.



DECEMBER 18, 2025

Women's Fellowship: Coffee Chat

Karen Hilber | womensfellowship@standrews.net

Take a break from the holiday hustle and bustle, and stop by for a hot beverage and warm conversation with St Andrew's friends at the West Springfield Panera on **Thursday, December 18th** at 9:30 a.m. It's a great chance to make new friends, and catch up with ones you already have!

LECTIONARY READINGS

(www.lectionarypage.net)

DECEMBER 7, 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13

Matthew 3:1-12

DECEMBER 14, 2025

3rd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 35:1-10

Canticle 15 [Canticle 3 @ 8am]

James 5:7-10

Matthew 11:2-11

DECEMBER 21, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

Romans 1:1-7

Matthew 1:18-25

DECEMBER 24, 2025

Christmas Eve

Isaiah 62:6-12

Psalm 97

Titus 3:4-7

Luke 2:1-20

DECEMBER 25, 2025

Christmas Day

Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm 98

Hebrews 1:1-12

John 1:1-14

DECEMBER 28, 2025

1st Sunday after Christmas Day

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Psalm 147

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

John 1:1-18

Christmas Services

Wednesday, December 24th

Children's Pageant & Holy Eucharist: Rite II
@ 4:00 p.m.

Carols & Anthems with Choir & Brass
@ 8:30 p.m.




Holy Eucharist: Rite II with Choir & Brass
@ 9:00 p.m.

Thursday, December 25th

Holy Eucharist: Rite II with Hymns
@ 11:00 a.m.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Burke, Virginia
www.standrews.net

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 Hannah Compton	4	5 Betsy Pugin	6
7	8	9	10 Denise Turcotte Annel Kelley	11	12 Samuel Hellier	13 Stacey Thomas
14	15 Beth Ridpath Gracie Parsons-Schwarz Maggie Sertich	16	17 Libby Fike Maddie Vega	18 Gabby Vega	19	20 Lisa Rollo
21 WINTER BEGINS Dan Humphrey 	22 Jim Kirkpatrick Sandy Mansfield Ayla Petty Jennifer Koerner	23	24 Obadiah Dugan Declan Cone	25 CHRISTMAS 	26	27 Helen DuVal Anna Hinton
28 Danielle Limbaugh	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE Lena Scribner 			

*Don't see your name on your birthday? Let us know!
Contact Emily (emily@standrews.net) and we'll get you added to the list.*

DIRECTORY

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. William L. Packard | Rector
will@standrews.net

The Rev. Maria Maguire | Associate Rector
maria@standrews.net

The Rev. Susie Harding | Deacon
susie@standrews.net

Michelle Ramsdell | Parish Administrator
michelle@standrews.net

Emily Nein | Communications Director
emily@standrews.net

Alan Moser | Minister of Music, Organist, & Choirmaster
alan@standrews.net

Tami Phillips | Preschool Director
preschool@standrews.net

Carlos Guzman | Sexton
sexton@standrews.net

2025 Vestry

Jeff Reba | Senior Warden
srwarden@standrews.net

Anne Brannam | Junior Warden
jrwarden@standrews.net

Laura Sabo | Register
register@standrews.net

Dan Humphrey | Treasurer
treasurer@standrews.net

Pam Hardin & Gail Bouton | Fellowship
fellowship@standrews.net

Kate Lewis & Laura Sabo | Formation
formation@standrews.net

Paul Foley & Bill Johnson | Outreach
outreach@standrews.net

Carol Robinson | Safety & Security
safety@standrews.net

Stephanie Meadows | Stewardship
stewardship@standrews.net

Karen Spencer | Welcome
welcome@standrews.net

Christopher Lillard | Youth Rep

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