

The Net

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



RECTOR

THE REV. WILL PACKARD

will@standrews.net

Merry Christmas!!!

Feel free to continue saying "Merry Christmas" as we observe this feast for 12 full days! We are in the midst of the

High Holy Days of the Episcopal Anglican Calendar. In addition to Christmas (12/25-1/5), we have such observances as St. Stephen (12/26), St. John (12/27), Holy Name (1/1), Epiphany (1/6), and Feast of the Baptism of our Lord (1/11). We look to each of these observances as pointing to the Incarnate and Resurrected God in Jesus Christ. In our Christian and secular world, it is a time of renewal and commitment to the time ahead. At St. Andrew's, we also enter into a new year of renewal and recommitment.

In our secular world, many of us will make changes and have hopes for the new year. Resolutions are made in all areas from limiting social media, increasing financial literacy, exercise, dieting, church attendance, and more. These commitments may be helpful in many ways to individuals and to our larger communities. In all of them, we remember to keep our Baptismal Promises and the mission of the church at the core. What connection might be made to any of your own commitments to the Baptismal Covenant?

In our new church year, we will renew and even rewrite our vision and mission. We have heard from many people and may need to offer more listening sessions. I encourage you to answer the first two questions we ask at this link if you have not already.

As we make larger decisions this year in our discernment for use of our land, it will be important to reference our current vision and mission for the church. In all that we do, we go back to the great commission in Matthew 28 and we remember our

Baptismal Covenant. As we do this, we remember hope that goes beyond an aspirational hope and into a deeper, Christian hope. This is an eternal hope which shines forth into and even from the dark places of our lives and society. This is a hope that extends beyond the worldly and is rooted and leads to the eternal.

I am excited to renew our commitments this year in these holy observances and in our lives together. We will grow this coming year both in number and in faith. We will explore the meaning of discipleship and how we are called to be disciples. We will experience and share the love and grace that we receive from God. We will know the our Lord Christ in each other, in the prayers, and in the breaking of the bread. We will and do carry an eternal hope.

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Happy Feast of the Holy Name, and may God bless and keep you this year, in the New Year, and always!

Faithfully yours,

Will

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

Much of what makes St. Andrew's the vibrant, welcoming parish it is happens quietly in the background. Our

worship, outreach, formation, fellowship, and other ministries don't run on autopilot. They are supported by many volunteers, led by a group of people serving on the Vestry who care deeply about this church and are willing to help guide it forward.

As we look ahead to our Annual Meeting and the election of new Vestry members in February, I want to take a moment to talk about Vestry service, including what it is not, and why I hope you will consider it.

For some, there may be a misconception that serving on the Vestry requires a particular kind of expertise or a deep familiarity with church governance or Episcopal theology. I certainly thought that way when I was first approached. I was relatively new to the Episcopal Church, and I worried that I didn't know enough about how the church operated or that I lacked the experience needed to be an effective Vestry member.

What I quickly learned is that Vestry service is not reserved for experts. It is not about having all the answers. It is about listening, asking good questions, offering perspective, and helping to discern how best to support the mission and ministries of the parish. The Vestry's role is leadership and stewardship, not running every program or doing all the work ourselves.

Vestry members help set direction, support our clergy, and represent the voice of the congregation as we make decisions together. It

is thoughtful, collaborative work that is shared. No one serves alone, and no one is expected to know everything on day one...or after three years!

I've found Vestry service to be far more meaningful than I anticipated. I've gained a deeper understanding of how St. Andrew's functions, but more importantly, I've developed a much stronger connection to the parish and to the people who call it home. Serving alongside others who care deeply about this community has been a gift. Many Vestry members will tell you the same: they leave the experience not only better informed, but more connected—to the church, to our mission, and to one another.

I'll be honest, Vestry service does require a commitment of some time and attention, but not as much as you probably imagine. The work is shared among clergy, Vestry members, and ministry leaders. It is not an all-consuming role, and it is not something you are expected to carry on your own.

If you care about the future of St. Andrew's, if you've benefited from this community, or if you've ever wondered how decisions are made and how you might help shape what comes next, I encourage you to consider serving on the Vestry. You don't need to be an expert. You just need to be willing to serve, listen, and engage.

If this is something you'd like to explore, or if you have questions, I'd be glad to talk with you, as would Fr. Will or other members of the Vestry. There's no pressure, just an invitation to consider one way you might help guide the life of our parish in the years ahead.

PRESCHOOL NEWS**PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR****TAMI PHILLIPS**[\(preschool@standrews.net\) | \(703\) 455-8458](mailto:preschool@standrews.net)

Happy New Year! I hope your holidays were filled with much peace, joy, and family memories. We are getting back into the swing of things after being on vacation for two weeks. I can't think of a better way to beat the winter blahs than with our PJ and Donut Day for staff and students at the end of the month.

This school year is moving so quickly which makes it hard to believe that priority preschool

registration for the 2026-2027 school year will open to current families, alumni families, and Parish families January 13th.

If you are interested in registering for the 2026-2027 school year, call or email our preschool office to acquire more information or schedule a tour. Please visit our web site preschool.standrews.net, where you can take a virtual tour or complete the inquiry form to begin the registration process through our software ChildPilot.

OUTREACH

Hypothermia Prevention Week

Steve Koss | hypothermia@standrews.net

St Andrew's is hosting our annual Hypothermia Prevention Program from **January 25th to February 1st**. During this week, we will welcome 50+ homeless guests each night and provide them with food, fellowship, and shelter. There are many volunteer slots found here: <http://tiny.cc/hypovol26> that need to be filled in order to make this week a success.

We also have a need for donated items such as walking food, certain clothing, etc. We are ready to receive donations as soon as possible and no later than January

25th by placing them on the brick ledge in the hallway across from the Office or in the Conference Room. Any questions please contact Steve Koss.

You can access both the volunteer and donated items Sign-Up Genius pages using the same link. If on a desktop there is a separate tab to toggle to each sign-up at the top of the page. On mobile there is a dropdown at the top to choose which page you want.

Hypothermia Prevention Week - Men's Fellowship Dinner Volunteers

Jim Kirkpatrick | mensfellowship@standrews.net

The Men's Group will again support St. Andrew's Hypothermia Week activities by providing the evening meal on **Friday, January 30th**, and volunteers are needed to bring food, serve, and help with clean-up. Men's Fellowship provides the main dishes and sides, while the drinks and desserts will be provided by others.

Hot BBQ sandwiches have been a popular main dish. We need at least 5 crock pots of your favorite BBQ recipe. It can be pork, beef, or chicken, but we **must have at least one non-pork selection** so as to accommodate everyone.

Here's the menu (we need volunteers to bring the following):

- BBQ - 5 crock pots (already cooked and ready to serve)
- Buns - 10 packs of 8 each
- Macaroni and Cheese - enough for 50
- Cole Slaw - enough for 50
- Baked Beans - 5 large cans
- Fruit Cups - 30-35 individual cups

Jim Kirkpatrick is the lead, and will coordinate who's bringing what. Please contact him if you can help serve or bring a food item, or both.

The meal will be **served between 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.**, so please plan to **be at the church no later than 5:30 p.m.**

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
Kit Thompson
Lauren Bowdren
Scootie Prior
Gene Girondo
Dan Emrick
Daniel Leong
Roy Eichhorn
Donna Daugherty
Carol Robinson
Bill Hartig
Olivia
Felix
Eddie Fortune
Bishop Shannon
Johnston
Bill Armour

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

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
Howard Moses

Stewart
Doug Connell
Jim Myhre
Barbara Pelletier
Mark G.
Millie Nash
Alice Jean Stoots
Kristen Hull
Jack Miller
Chris Erbe
Nicki Gray
John Neal
Andrew Boucek
Erin Cartwright
Annie Hughes
Cindy Koss
Jeff Taltavull

Departed

Larry Dunn (father of Laura Sabo & Andy Haskins)
Wally Morgan (father of Kent Morgan)
Patricia Sabo (mother of Dave Sabo)
Jim Watson (cousin of Tom Watson)
Janice Crosby (friend of Diane Jones)

ENDOWMENT NEWS

Preparing an estate plan is good Christian stewardship – saying thanks to God, expressing your love and concern for family, and showing charity toward others.

endowment@standrews.net

STEWARSHIP

2026 Stewardship Drive

Stephanie Meadows | stewardship@standrews.net

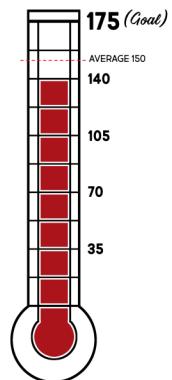
Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge for 2026! Our goal is **\$825,000** and **175 pledges**.

We are so close to reaching our 2026 goal! You can be the one to push us over, but only if you pledge! 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



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Realm Connect: New Year Tune-Up

Sarah Akins & Betsy Cotten | realm@standrews.net

As we start a new year, we're doing a quick "tune-up" in Realm Connect so our parish directory and ministry schedules stay accurate and helpful. In January, you may receive an email from us if we need your help opting a family member into the directory (for example, young children).

Volunteers: please take a moment to add your unavailable dates for January–March in Realm Connect, especially if you serve in a scheduled ministry (ushers, coffee hosts, readers, Sunday School, etc.). Need help? Visit the Realm Help Desk most Sundays: 9–10 a.m. in the Narthex, and after the 10 a.m. service in the Parish Hall (before Adult Formation). You're also welcome to reach out for one-on-one help outside of those times.

Thank you for helping keep our parish connected and organized!



An Invitation to the Prayer Guild

Betsy Cotten | prayers@standrews.net

The Prayer Guild is a small community of people who pray for one another and for our parish—not because we've mastered prayer, but because we're practicing it together. As we begin a new calendar year, we'd love for you to join us.

Some prayers are eloquent. Some are quiet. Some are a little messy and offered with crossed fingers and good intentions. Sometimes we pray together, sometimes alone, and sometimes it's a deep breath at a red light—and somehow, all of that counts. We come seeking deeper connection—with God and with one another—trusting that grace meets us right where we are. All are welcome.

If your prayer life feels strong, tender, rusty, or uncertain, there is room for you here. No perfection required. Email Betsy at prayers@standrews.net to learn more.

Meal MinistryKaren 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.

Welcome Bag MinistryKaren 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 10, 2026**Creative Gifts Ministry Meeting**Julie Morgan | creativegifts@standrews.net

Please bring your finished projects to our 10:00 a.m. meeting on **Saturday, January 10th**, in the Conference Room. All parishioners are welcome to join in. Due to health reasons, I will be stepping aside as the lead. Please give prayerful thought if you would like to lead this ministry.

JANUARY 11, 2026**FoMA Concert Series: Baltimore Brass**foma@standrews.net

Our first concert of the new year is on **Sunday, January 11th**, at 4:00 p.m. The award-winning Baltimore Brass was founded in 2000 by graduates of the Peabody Conservatory of Music and is one of Maryland's longest continuously operating professional brass ensembles. The group of world-class musicians specializes in the performance of classical and contemporary music that appeals to audiences both young and young at heart. The Baltimore Brass is partnered with the Maryland Fine Arts Council as roster artists and is recognized as the official brass ensemble of the Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine.

**FEBRUARY 8, 2026****Save the Date - Annual Meeting**emily@standrews.net

Join us after the 10:00 a.m. service on **Sunday, February 8th** for our Annual Meeting. We will vote for new Vestry members, thank those Vestry members rolling off, review the Annual Report, and go over other important St. Andrew's business. We will have the meeting live streamed for those who cannot join in person.

If you have an interest in serving on Vestry, please contact Senior Warden, Jeff Reba (swarden@standrews.net).

LECTIONARY READINGSwww.lectionarypage.net**JANUARY 4, 2026**

2nd Sunday after Christmas Day

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Psalm 84

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

JANUARY 11, 2026

1st Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 42:1-9

Psalm 29

Acts 10:34-43

Matthew 3:13-17

JANUARY 18, 2026

2nd Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 49:1-7

Psalm 40:1-12

1 Corinthians 1:1-9

John 1:29-42

JANUARY 25, 2026

3rd Sunday after the Epiphany

Isaiah 9:1-4

Psalm 27:1, 5-13

1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Matthew 4:12-23

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--------------------------|--|---|------------------------|
| | | | | 1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Richard Sellers  | 2 Scott Emert Steve Koss Andrew Winfield | 3 Ann DiMisa |
| 4 | 5 | 6 EPIPHANY Janet Foley Liz Ryon  | 7 January Layman-Wood | 8 | 9 Christie Dasher | 10 Julia Soderstrom |
| 11 | 12 | 13 JD Thomas | 14 | 15 | 16 Libby Spencer | 17 |
| 18 Pam Rozelsky | 19 MLK, JR. DAY Dave Lewis  | 20 | 21 Mary Petze | 22 | 23 | 24 |
| 25 Deborah England Bill Wright Dan Emrick Sean Cafferky | 26 | 27 Scootie Prior Alan Moser | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 Harrison Coates |

*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
micelle@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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