

St Andrew Presbyterian Church

LOAVES + FISHES

January 2024



Vision

CHRIST IS CALLING ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH TO BE A BEACON OF PEACE AND LOVE WHERE EVERYBODY BELONGS

Mission

AS FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE BEING TRANSFORMED THROUGH THE COURAGEOUS AND HEALING WORK OF RECONCILIATION

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Lenten Small Groups - Hosts Needed

Lent, a season of spiritual discipline and preparation that starts annually with Ash Wednesday—which falls this year on Feb. 10—anticipates the celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ at Easter, which falls on March 31 this year. We slow down, take time, and examine our internal spiritual lives and the way we live out our Christian faith in the world around us.

During the 40 days of Lent, you are invited to join a small group within St. Andrew's congregation to gather weekly for one hour to share and learn with other disciples of Christ. This six-week commitment is a powerful opportunity for participants to grow their faith while fellowshiping with and learning alongside others.

Groups will gather to read a selected book and follow a guided discussion provided by the Discipleship Committee. The book title will be announced in coming days.

What does hosting a group entail? In the past, most groups have met in a person's home on a weekly basis at a selected time. Other groups can choose to meet at the church, at a coffee shop, over lunch - whatever the host would like to offer! The host, in addition to providing a place and time to meet, can either lead the guided discussion or that responsibility can rotate among group members. This is a 6 meeting commitment, between the dates of February 10 and March 31.

If you are willing to host a small group, please email Ally Fetch at ally.fetch@tnlcenter.com with the following information: location, day and one-hour time slot, whether children are welcome, maximum number of people that can be accommodated (no more than 8 adults per group), and whether the household (if the location is a home) has cats/dogs. Evenings, weekends, mid-day, whatever works for the host is great - a variety of days and times ensure the entire congregation has a time slot that can work for them. In mid-January, the congregation will be invited to sign up for one of those days/times.



January Calendar

Mon 1	all day	Church office & NLC closed - New Year's Day
Thur 4	7 pm	Deacons Meeting
Sun 7	10 am	Worship service with communion*
	11:30 am	Called Session Meeting
	5-8 pm	Minis & Youth Group (Minis 5-6, Dinner for all 6-6:30, Youth 6:30-8)
Thur 11	6:30 pm	PNC Meeting
Sun 14	11:30 am	Committee Meetings
Mon 15	all day	Church office & NLC closed - Martin Luther King Jr Day
Thur 18	6:30 pm	NLC Board Meeting
		PNC Meeting
Sun 21	11:30 am	Session Meeting
	5-8 pm	Minis & Youth Group (Minis 5-6, Dinner for all 6-6:30, Youth 6:30-8)
Thur 25	6:30 pm	PNC Meeting
Fri 26	5:00 pm	Newsletter Submission Deadline
Sat 27	7:30 pm	Book Club
Sun 28	11 am	Annual Congregational Meeting*

**child care is available infant-3 years old*

EVERY SUNDAY

9:00-9:45 am Church School - ALL AGES!
10:00 am Worship Service

EVERY WEDNESDAY

6:45 pm Choir Rehearsal
8:00 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal

Happy New Year!

There is a private Facebook group called "St. Andrew Presbyterian Church Families" where TONS of photos and info and fun stuff is shared! Request to join!

A NOTE FROM YOUR EDITORS...

FOR OUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION, WE HAVE DECIDED **NOT** TO GET THE NEWSLETTER OUT ON TIME! THIS IS BECAUSE WE NEVER CAN MEET THE RESOLUTIONS WE SET, SO IF WE RESOLVE **NOT** TO GET IT OUT IN A TIMELY MANNER, HOPEFULLY WE ACTUALLY WILL!

WHETHER YOU FOLLOWED OUR LOGIC OR NOT, PLEASE CONTINUE TO SUBMIT COMMITTEE AND OTHER INFORMATION TO SHARE. WE ARE BLESSED TO KNOW PEOPLE ARE READING THE NEWSLETTER AND FINDING IT VALUABLE!

Your editors,
Ally Fetch & Deborah Hill



Submissions due
Friday, January 26
[newsletter@](mailto:newsletter@standrew-pres.org)
standrew-pres.org



Ongoing Needs:

YOUTH GROUP

Click to sign up and feed these hungry kids!

- [Donuts for Sunday morning Bible Study](#)
- [Youth Group Dinners](#)
- [Youth Group Parent Volunteers](#)

clark.seipt@standrew-pres.org

CHILDREN'S LESSONS

A few more adults are needed to help lead Sunday children's lessons from 9:00-9:45. Sign up to help one Sunday and see how you like it, and then think about committing for a monthly rotation! sarah.sassak@standrew-pres.org

MEAL TRAIN MEMBERS

Be a member of the Congregational Care Meal Train Team! This group is on-call when someone in the congregation needs meals to help them through a challenging time. deacons@standrew-pres.org

ADULT STUDY LEADERS

Leaders for the Sunday morning Bible Study are needed. We provide everything you need! discipleship@standrew-pres.org

SUNDAY GREETERS

Can you smile? You can greet! From 9:30 - 10:05 am you greet church visitors and hand out bulletins. deacons@standrew-pres.org

FLOWERS FOR WORSHIP

Consider signing up to provide flowers for a worship service! Flowers can be store bought, delivered by a florist, or picked from your own garden. Sign up on the flower chart in the Narthex, or email nancy.gilmore@standrew-pres.org

HOST A COFFEE HOUR

Please sign up to provide Coffee/Fellowship Hour snacks and coffee! See the Fellowship bulletin board near the kitchen to choose a week. fellowship@standrew-pres.org

One-Time Needs:

DOCUMENT SCANNING

Discipleship & Children's Ministry need someone to scan some documents from physical handouts to electronic format. kirsten.shields@standrew-pres.org or ally.fetch@standrew-pres.org

WEBSITE REDESIGN INPUT

Do you have a marketing background? Help us generate ideas for redesigning our website! deborah.hill@standrew-pres.org

OFFICE MAILBOX FACELIFT

We know you've seen the office mailboxes... they're from circa 1975. They desperately need a facelift - removal of current name plates, painting the whole unit, and maybe something more creative if you're inspired? secretary@standrew-pres.org

A FEW PAINTERS FOR THE ENTRY

The color has been chosen, we just need some hands on a Saturday to help paint the entryway! Date and time are flexible. ally.fetch@tnlcenter.com

SEALING THE FOOD BOX

Use the polyurethane and brushes we already have to put a few coats on the food donation box. ally.fetch@tnlcenter.com



PRAY-GROUND

OPEN AFTER THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE EVERY WEEK!

Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, *“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”*

WHAT IS A PRAY-GROUND?

During the normal worship service, there will be a designated space near the front of the sanctuary where young children can experience worship through age-appropriate worship materials that will help keep them engaged in what is happening – such as children’s Bibles and books, coloring/drawing materials, pipe cleaners, Play-Doh, and items related to the scripture theme such as smooth stones, feathers, shells, etc.

WHY A PRAY-GROUND?

- Children acquire the “language” of worship by listening to and observing the words of the adults around them.
- Children are better able to process what they hear when they have something to do with their hands.
- Children love rituals and repetition.

We ask that an adult (or older youth) accompany their child and sit in the pews alongside the Pray-Ground to make sure their child understands the expectations of the space:

- use whisper voices
- be kind to others
- stay in the space once there
- be excited to be part of the worship of God in THEIR church!



Deacons

St. Andrew's deacons are charged with caring for our church community. Please reach out if you or someone you know needs meals, help with errands, rides, or simply prayers.

YOUR DEACONS ARE:

Evan Read, Katie Dunnigan, Katie Schwieger, Kim Peele, Mitch Seipt, Pat Quinn, Robin Laybourne, Marie Cahoon (Co-Chair), Sarah Sassak (Co-Chair)

deacons@standrew-pres.org

Fellowship



One of the Fellowship Committee duties is to ensure there are snacks and beverages following worship. This is a fun and important time to visit with our siblings in Christ! The signup sheet for providing snacks for Fellowship Hour is located on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

fellowship@standrew-pres.org

Plastic Bag Recycling Project

The Mission Committee is excited to announce the start of a new project - one which will help us fulfill our commission to care for the earth with which we were gifted. **We have joined the Nextrex Challenge Recycling Program!**

Starting towards the end of January, you can **bring your clean plastic bags and drop them off in the collection bins in the entryway.**

They will be weighed weekly and taken to collection points at local grocery stores. Once we collect 1,000 pounds, the church will earn a Trex bench to be placed on our property!

If you would like to volunteer to help weigh, photograph, and deliver bags at the store for this project, please contact Ally at ally.fetch@tnlcenter.com.

What can be recycled?

All plastic must be clean, dry and free of food residue.



Grocery bags



Bread bags



Bubble wrap



Dry cleaning bags



Newspaper sleeves



Ziploc & other reclosable food storage bags



Cereal bags



Case overwrap



Salt bags



Pallet wrap & stretch film



Ice bags



Plastic shipping envelopes



Wood pellet bags



Produce bags

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Your PNC has been hard at work for months creating the very specific “want ad” required to advertise for a new pastor. Now you can follow the progress of the rest of the process via the “PNC Candles!” There are three electric candles placed in the Narthex and Fellowship Hall, and the color of the candles tell you where we are in the process:

Blue - your PNC is reviewing applications

Green - interviews have begun.

Yellow - background and reference checks are in progress.

Orange - your PNC is visiting prospective pastors.

Red - the preliminary decision has been made.

Constantly changing colors means the Terms of Call are being negotiated!

Co-Chairs: Evan Read & Leslie Dragon

PNC Members: Amber Gillispie, Deborah Hill, Kirsten Shields, Maria Burel, and Marie Cahoon

To contact any PNC member:

first.name.lastname@standrew-pres.org

Property



The good work continues!

- The snow plow company has walked the parking lot and placed curb markers, ready for any snow coming our way this winter.
- Numerous small repairs around the building have been (and continue to be) made such as replacing door stops, fixing door handles, etc.
- A contractor has been engaged to repair/replace railings outside the main church entrance.

property@standrew-pres.org

Mission

mission@standrew-pres.org

FOOD ON THE 4TH (SUNDAY): JANUARY 28

Following the holiday distributions, Loudoun Hunger Relief suggests helping to restock their shelves with:

- Breakfast cereals
- Baking mixes
- Cooking Oil (normal size container, please)
- Flour (2 or 5 lb bags)
- Sugar (2 or 4 lb bags)
- Salt, Pepper, Cinnamon or other Spices

Thank you!



YOUR IMPACT:

\$1.300 in gift cards were collected in December for LAWS - the Loudoun Abused Women's Shelter.

Thanks to your support, parents who are escaping abusive situations were able to provide Christmas to their children.

LAWS provides a full array of services to adult, youth and child victims of domestic and sexual violence. They provide emergency shelter, but also therapy, legal services, support groups and advocacy. The St. Andrew Mission Committee has helped support the LAWS mission for many years. For more information you can go to www.lcsj.org

Together with the **Community Coalition of Haiti** partner schools we have become a Student Sponsor. You can follow on Facebook (www.facebook.com/cchaiti) to see current photos and stories and help share the impact of our education mission with your friends online. Here is their monthly "postcard" update:



Schools remain open in Haiti as the streets remain relatively calm. Our partner schools' biggest challenges right now are getting more kids back in attendance and making up for lost time in the school year. CCH partner schools are averaging 80% of their enrollment capacity.

Food prices have doubled or tripled since last year – making our school lunch program more vital and more expensive. Your student sponsor funds help us keep up with rising costs so that students get a guaranteed hot meal every school day. Jessica Charles (photo bottom right) is a 4th grader at EVELO School. She says, "I eat every day in the CCH lunch program and I like the food." Jessica's parents also like the food they serve at school, because they know she's getting a nutritious meal and it helps stretch the family budget a little farther.

Teacher trainings are happening again! CCH Education Liaisons Diedyson Fils and Nirva Jean Baptiste led a "5 Love Languages" training on December 30th for new partner school teachers. One teacher at *Flamboyant* School told Diedyson how excited she was to get back in her classroom and implement what she learned!

Your faithful giving as a CCH student sponsor is feeding hungry bellies and minds in Haiti. *Mesi* from all of us!



Youth

SUNDAY MORNING YOUTH STUDY 9AM

Come join us and learn about the Bible and what it means to live a Christian life as a teen/tween in today's world. Oh, and did we mention...donuts??

*The Youth Christmas Party was **EPIC!** Make sure to check out the St. Andrew Families FB page for videos of the games!*



YOUTH GROUP GATHERINGS

in-house
faith & fun:
Sun, Jan 7
&
Sun, Jan 21

Minis 5-6
Dinner for all 6-6:30
Youth 6:30-8

clark.seipt@standrew-pres.org



Children

SUNDAY CHILDREN'S SCHOOL - 9:00 AM

Come join your friends and learn about Following Jesus! Children ages 4 through 5th grade are invited every Sunday morning to hear Bible stories, do crafts, play games, and of course...have FUN!!

sarah.sassak@standrew-pres.org

Discipleship



Please join us from 9:00-9:45 Sunday mornings in Fellowship Hall as we dive into Scripture and learn from God's word and from one another. **All are welcome, and each Sunday is a standalone lesson, so no worries if you haven't been able to attend before!**

January's theme is "Baptize." The practice of baptism picks up where the baptismal event leaves off. In this month's adult sessions we will explore:

Jan 7 Remember Your Baptism

Mark 1:1-11 looks at Jesus' baptism recorded in Mark and in the other three Gospels and encourages participants to remember and practice baptism.

Jan 14 Cross the Divide

Exodus 14:10-31 connects the crossing of the Red Sea in Exodus to the waters of Jesus' baptism. Each event bears witness to God's mighty acts that cross divides. Jesus continues God's work of crossing divides in bridging social, political, and religious barriers in his ministry.

Jan 21 Die and Rise

Romans 6:3-11 unpacks the paradox of water and faith. Water is necessary for life, while it can also inflict harsh damage. In the waters of baptism, we die with Christ, and we rise to live with Christ. We exemplify a new way of living in Christ.

Jan 28 Honor the Body

1 Corinthians 12:12-31 explores the ways water and the Holy Spirit sustain the body and unite its distinct members into one. In baptismal living, God's people seek to live together in dignity, mutuality, and equality.

discipleship@standrew-pres.org

Session

Ruling Elders, together with ministers of word and sacrament, exercise leadership, government, spiritual discernment, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a congregation as well as the whole church, including ecumenical relationships.

Your Elders are:

Ally Fetch, Discipleship; Clark Seipt, Youth (part of Discipleship); Daniel Gillispie, Finance; Deborah Hill, Communications; Josh Shields, Property; Lillian Brewer, Worship; Marcia Owens, Clerk of Session; Priscilla O'Donnell, HR; Stephen Fike, Treasurer

session@standrew-pres.org

Finance

**Year-To-Date (YTD) through
Dec 2023**

Actual total income:	\$530,801.69
Actual Expenses:	<u>(\$522,652.08)</u>
Net income:	\$8,149.61

Full financial reports are available on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

finance@standrew-pres.org

The Neighborhood Learning Center

December was a time to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and all of the joys and magic surrounding the Christmas season. We were blessed to have over 150 parents and family members attend the preschool Christmas Program in the church sanctuary to hear songs offered by our 2-year olds through pre-K students. Santa paid a visit another day, children (and staff!) enjoyed PJ days, and every student took home a Christmas gift for their parents.



We have several spaces available for enrollment. Refer anyone who is interested to JoAnna, the NLC Director, at joanna.rich@nlcenter.com

Book Club Small Groups Bible Bunch

4TH SATURDAYS 7:30 PM @ MEMBERS' HOMES

This book club has been meeting for over 20 years! At each meeting there is an assigned book for a discussion led by volunteers. Meetings rotate among members' homes. For more information, text or call Zoe Sowers at 703-629-4964.

- Jan 28 Hello Beautiful by Ann Napolitano
- Feb 24 The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store by James McBride
- Mar 23 Kantika by Elizabeth Graver



bookclub@standrew-pres.org

2ND MONDAYS 10:00 AM IN YOUTH LOUNGE

The Bible Bunch is following the Presbyterian study, "Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts" by Olive Mahabir. Within the pages of this study, Olive Mahabir invites you to consider Jesus and Jesus' disciples who shared the Good News through sacred encounters with everyday people.



nancy.gilmore@standrew-pres.org

HAHAHA

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



(See Genesis 3)

12-30-2013

REMEMBER THAT NEW YEAR RESOLUTION YOU MADE TO TRY NEW THINGS?

Did you know?

According to Forbes, for 2024 the most popular goals include:

- Improved fitness (48%)
- Improved finances (38%)
- Improved mental health (36%)
- Lose weight (34%)
- Improved diet (32%)

Less popular resolutions include traveling more (6%), meditating regularly (5%), drinking less alcohol (3%) and performing better at work (3%).

<https://www.forbes.com/health/mind/new-years-resolutions-statistics/>