

# CROSSCURRENTS

CURRENT NEWS AND THOUGHT FROM ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

September 2025



*Reflecting on 10 Years Together*

It's hard for me to believe that we have been together as priest and parish for a decade. Where has the time gone? And looking at our family pictures from when we arrived at St. Andrew's in August 2015, this feeling only gets more pronounced! Our girls are no longer kids, but young women who are discovering themselves and making their own ways in this complicated and beautiful world. St. Andrew's has a palpable sense of thriving and not just surviving. And my hair is somewhat thinner and *a lot* grayer (which I don't think is due to either the kids or the parish - just life).

How is it that we have arrived - as a family and parish - where we are now? I think the most basic answer is that we have put in some significant time together as Rector and congregation. But more significantly, I think it's that we've covered some ground in this journey of life, faith and ministry. We've put in some miles together.

In the Fall of 2015, we had a Celebration of New Ministry, which is a beautiful rite of passage marking the beginning of a new pastor/congregation relationship. (It's much better than the old term for this - "Installation" - which sounds like the priest is an appliance or piece of furniture that is being bolted into the church!) There is a poetic line in this service which always stands out to me, where the Bishop (or Dean) charges us to cultivate "the bonds of affection" which will allow us to be faithful and fruitful in ministry together. I firmly believe that it is these very "bonds of affection" that have allowed us to not only survive 10 years together, but to actually thrive. Put another way, we have grown to love one another.

One of the things I loved about St. Andrew's when I arrived is your genuine spirit of welcome. Most churches claim to be welcoming. In my experience, few really are. Our ethos of welcome is, I believe, a charism (gift of the Holy Spirit) of this parish. You sense it when you walk in, before experiencing very much. And that sense of welcome is confirmed throughout a church service and beyond.

From the minute I arrived at St. Andrew's, I felt that I was welcome here. Not just welcome in a generic sense, but welcomed into your midst to be fully who I am and who I am becoming, both as a person and a priest. Part of our journey together has been solidifying our identity as a welcoming congregation and building upon that cornerstone of our parish life. To feel truly welcome is an affirmation to all of us, and a healing balm to many who have not felt welcome in other parts of their lives, especially in religious places or spaces. It is one way we reflect Jesus' Way of Love, otherwise known as the kingdom of God.

I want you to know that I know you love me. That feels a little weird to write, but I know it to be true. The visible manifestation of these "bonds of affection" at the surprise 10th Anniversary Coffee Hour you threw for me a couple weeks ago was deeply meaningful and a bit overwhelming. It's not often I am rendered speechless, and it happened that day. It is not a given (sadly) that a parish will deeply love their clergy, and be willing to express it. I feel like the luckiest priest in the Diocese, having a parish that I know loves me. Your love is a big part of what sustains me in the challenges and joys of parish ministry. Thank you.

And I hope you know that I love you, too. I love the whole of St. Andrew's, and I also love the individual people that comprise St. Andrew's. Like any relationship of love, we drive each other a little crazy sometimes, and I'm sure rub each other the wrong way on occasion. But that goes with the territory of a relationship of love. I think that's the meaning of what the Scriptures tell us, that "Love covers a multitude of sins." If there was never any friction, that would be merely infatuation, which admittedly is a lot of fun, but not very deep, lasting, or ultimately satisfying.

As we mark our 10 years together as priest and parish, let's continue to name and celebrate these "bonds of affection" that describe our relationship. I believe they are God-given, and they are key to our common life together. To name them is an act of gratitude, thanks and praise, and increases our "joy quotient", as Bishop Paula is fond of saying.

Indeed, may all who encounter St. Andrew's know that we are Christians - followers of Jesus' Way of Love - because we love one another.

Love,  
Gregg+

## **NEWS FROM THE WARDENS – SEPTEMBER 2025**



**GRACIA MORTON**  
Senior Warden

**BOB SELLINGER**  
Junior Warden

St. Andrews Day will be celebrated on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> with one service at 9:00 a.m. If you are new to the parish, this is an opportunity to learn more about ways to be involved in parish activities. Even if you've been a member of St. Andrews for a while, there are ongoing volunteer outreach and service opportunities, and educational programs which God may be calling you into this fall season.

Much of our programming for the year kicks off in the month of September, including Stewardship, Choir, Bible Study, Adult Forum, and the Sunday Christian Formation and Youth Group programs. As you may know, our Children's Ministry Coordinator, Anne Nelsen, stepped back from that position in the spring after several years of leadership, to prioritize her busy family's schedule. She and her family will continue to be active members of the parish thankfully, and the duties of the position will be taken on by Mother Tara and a small group of volunteers. We want to take some time to celebrate Anne Nelsen's faithful ministry to St. Andrew's at a special coffee hour in her honor on Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> after the 10 a.m. service. Please join us to thank Anne for her outstanding contribution to our programming for youth and families through the years.

**HELP WANTED!** The Wardens are looking for a parishioner who would be interested in serving on the Leadership Recruiting Committee, which is authorized by the Vestry to recruit a slate of Vestry and Convention Delegate nominees to be elected by parishioners at the Annual Meeting in February 2026. Two parishioners who have formerly served on Vestry at St. Andrew's or another Episcopal church, two current or former Vestry members, and the Wardens and Rector will comprise the committee. Thank you to current Vestry member, John

Toussaint, and outgoing Vestry member, Matt Andrews, who have already volunteered. The committee will be commissioned by the Vestry at the September meeting, so if you are interested in serving on this short-term committee – or are interested in being included on the slate of Vestry or Convention Delegate candidates in 2026 -- please let us know.

There is a lot going on this month as we leave our laid-back summer pace behind. Please be sure to watch the weekly bulletins and church calendar for up-to-date information. Also don't forget to make time each day to pray, study, and thank God for the many blessings in our lives and in our church. There are several opportunities other than weekly worship to do so in groups at St. Andrews -- such as in Centering Prayer, Women's Bible Study, Brotherhood of St. Andrews, Daughters of the King, and Children's and Adult Forum classes. Peace to you all – and Happy Fall!

## **AUGUST VESTRY MEETING REPORT**

On Aug. 21, 2025 the Vestry met for its August meeting. Highlights follow:

1. Outreach Update: Janine Pickett and Laura Holm reported on recent progress of the Outreach Committee. They're analyzing the responses from committee heads to their recent survey. Based on this analysis, Janine and Laura will finalize the survey they plan to circulate to all parishioners. Laura recently submitted applications to renew the Parish Partner grants awarded by the Episcopal Charities of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. These grants help with funding for our feeding ministries - specifically Sandwich Board and Community Kitchen. Fr. Gregg reported on interest from the Church of the Holy Nativity to join us on the youth trip Mother Tara is leading to Casa Hogar next Summer; youth from both parishes will travel together to Casa Hogar next Summer under Mother Tara's leadership.
2. Stewardship Update: Bob Sellinger updated the Vestry on the detailed plans for the upcoming stewardship campaign and shared a calendar of weekly stewardship activities scheduled between St. Andrews Day on Sept 7th and Celebration Sunday in early November. See the Crosscurrents Stewardship article for more details.

3. **Parking Lot Liability:** As a follow up to an action item from last month's Vestry meeting, Neil Cleary reported that he discussed the liability implications of the use of the church's parking lot by four staff members of a local dental office with our insurance representative. Our agent assured Neil that we're covered - our policy covers any liability associated with this use. The Vestry agreed to close this action item.
4. **Leadership Recruiting Committee Commissioning:** Fr. Gregg reminded the Vestry that it's time to form a recruiting committee to identify candidates to fill the Vestry and Warden positions that are maturing. Matt Andrews and John Toussaint volunteered to be the two Vestry members on this committee. Matt and John will join the Wardens, Fr. Gregg, and two other parishioners not currently on the Vestry to form the recruiting committee. All members of this committee will be identified by the Sept. Vestry meeting for the Vestry's approval.
5. **Fund Raising Policy Update:** Malinda Hamann shared a fundraising policy draft for the Vestry to review. The goal of this policy is to insure all fundraising activities conform to state law, particularly concerning sales tax. Malinda plans to update this draft with the Vestry's comments and will have an updated policy statement for the Vestry to consider in Sept.
6. **July Financial Report:** Mike Dunn presented the July financial report. The favorable trends we've seen since the start of the year continued through July - our revenue continues ahead of plan while our expenses continue below what we forecasted in the budget. Based on the meetings Mike's had with the PDO director and the analysis he's done of PDO finances (particularly the increase from \$45 to \$50/day/child that becomes effective this Fall), Mike expects PDO's Fall financial performance to break even. The Vestry approved the July financial report and concurred with Mike's assessment of PDO's finances.



# Meet your St. Andrew's Vestry



Fr. GREGG MORRIS  
Rector



Mo. TARA OSBORNE  
Associate Rector



ROSE CICERO  
Deacon



Rev. Dr. JO ANN LAGMAN  
Assisting Priest



GRACIA MORTON  
Senior Warden



BOB SELLINGER  
Junior Warden



MIKE DUNN  
Treasurer



Diane Sellinger  
Clerk of Vestry



MALINDA HAMANN  
Vestry 2023-2025



GARY ROBBINS  
Vestry 2023-2025



MATTHEW ANDREWS  
Vestry 2023-2025



NEIL CLEARY  
Vestry 2023-2025



BARBARA O'DELL  
Vestry 2024-2026



JACOB OSOJNAK  
Vestry 2024-2026



JOHN TOUSSAINT  
Vestry 2024-2026



CHLOE BANDA



JACK COURTNEY  
Vestry 2025-2027



LAURA HOLM  
Vestry 2025-2027



JANINE PICKETT  
Vestry 2025-2027



TIM SEIDLER  
Vestry 2025-2027



CHRIS NELSEN  
Convention Delegate



VERA MARTIN  
Convention Delegate



NINA KUHLMAN  
Convention Delegate



## **STEWARDSHIP 2025**

Our annual stewardship campaign starts on St. Andrews Day, Sept 7th. The format should be familiar - same theme, “We Are Called”, as last year; familiar hymns; weekly bulletin updates of our progress; our follow-the-ushers tradition; and a Celebration Sunday pie pot luck.

This year you’ll notice increased involvement of parishioners throughout the campaign. Over the next two months, you’ll hear from a number of parishioners about why they love St. Andrews and how they participate in stewardship. You’ll notice the active involvement of our youngest members in the campaign. You’ll also read the weekly bulletin updates of our progress to meeting our goals - 5% revenue growth, 95%+ parishioner participation, and involvement of the newest members of our church.

Meeting our stewardship financial goals is particularly important this year. With a successful campaign, we’ll be able to finally erase the deficit in our budget. Entering 2026 without a deficit would be the culmination of the financial roadmap we’ve been following over the last four years. We’re almost there; it’s now up to us to realize this goal.

However, numbers and money aren't the message of stewardship. After all, numbers dwell in our heads while stewardship starts in our hearts as a way to respond to God's unconditional love for us. God calls us in many ways to participate in the life of the St. Andrews' community; taking care of our church through stewardship is one of those ways. Over the next few weeks, take a few moments to reflect upon what St. Andrews means to you, what your callings are, and what your heart is telling you about stewardship.

Another one of the ways we can show our pride and love for our church is participating in the upcoming St. Andrews' apparel drive. On Sept. 7th, thanks to the Daughters of the King and Brotherhood of St. Andrews, you'll have the opportunity to order St. Andrews's themed apparel and merchandise. It's been over 10 years since merchandise like this has been available - it's long overdue and finally here.

As a faith filled, loving community, we have much to be proud of and thankful for here at St. Andrews. Through stewardship we have the opportunity to demonstrate our pride and respond to God's unconditional love for us.

## **HOSPITALITY UPDATE**

The purpose of Coffee Hour is not to provide drinks and snacks, it's to build relationships. Having refreshments and tasty treats provides an incentive to hang out after the service, chat with old friends and make new ones. Not only does fellowship build friendships that last, it enriches a community better equipping it to do the work God calls us to do.

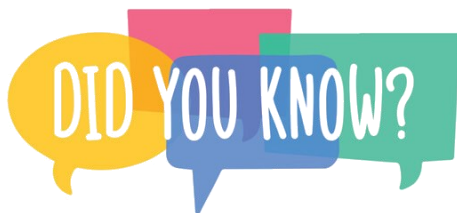


All of this is possible because members of the parish step up to host. Next time you're at Coffee Hour, take a minute to thank the hosts. Better yet, consider signing up to host. Hosting is now easier with the recent introduction of hosting teams. If you are new to hosting, you can co-host with experienced hosts who will guide you through the process. Several parishioners who have never hosted before have recently co-hosted and had great experiences. It's an easy and meaningful way to contribute to the life of the parish. Be on the lookout for an upcoming baking workshop that will focus on baking for Coffee Hour.

## DID YOU KNOW?



- As you may have heard, Mother Tara is planning a youth trip to Casa Hogar for next Summer. She gladly said yes when the youth of the Church of the Holy Nativity asked if they could join us and travel to Casa Hogar too. This is a great recent example of the growing partnership between the youth of both parishes. More details to come.
- This past year, Episcopal Charities of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago awarded Parish Partner Grants to St. Andrews to help fund our feeding ministries - both Sandwich Board and Community Kitchen. Thanks to Laura Holm, we recently applied to Episcopal Charities to extend these grants for another year.
- Speaking of the Chicago Diocese, the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago will hold its annual, in-person convention this year in Rockford on Saturday, November 22nd. Rockford was chosen as a way to encourage participation from all parishes, particularly those outside of metro Chicago. Also, the Diocese's Finance Committee will host a Zoom call on Sept 18th for anyone interested in the Diocese's 2026 budget. Details of both of these important meetings can be found on the Diocese's website.
- On St. Andrews Day, Sept 7th, glass works of art by BillieJo Scharfenberg - an artist well known for her spiritually inspired glass works of art - will be on display and available to order. Jewelry, plaques, and stained glass shields featuring Episcopalian inspired themes will all be on display. While trained on the East Coast with exhibits at the Yale School of Art, BillieJo's studio, Angel Dreams Studio, is here in Madison, Wisconsin. You can learn more about her at: [angeldreamsstudios.com](http://angeldreamsstudios.com)



## **ST. LUCIA GUILD**

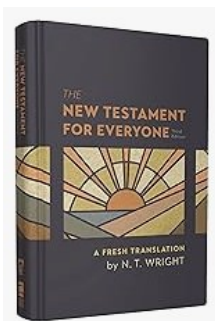
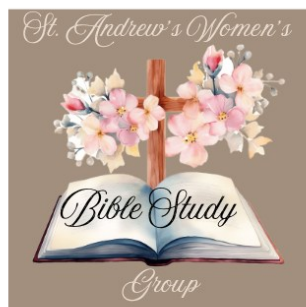
St. Lucia Guild will meet Wednesday, September 17 at 10 AM in the Brides' Room at St. Andrew's. Our meeting will start with a social time followed by a business meeting. This will be an organizational meeting for the coming year's activities. Please bring your calendar so you can sign up to hostess a future meeting.



St. Lucia Welcomes all ladies of St. Andrews. If anyone has questions about the Guild and its activities, please call Nancy Stapleton, 630-964-4494.

## **ST. ANDREW'S WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY**

The St. Andrew's Women's Bible Study will resume for the academic year on Thursday, September 11, 2025 at 10:00 AM. in the Phil Room. We are beginning the *N.T. Wright* "The New Testament for Everyone" Bible Study on the book of Revelation led by Mother Tara Osborne. No prior Bible study experience is needed, and all women of the parish are welcome!



If you'd like to order a study book, you can do so on Amazon but books are not required, as we will read and discuss each lesson together during our study time. Bibles are available to use, or feel free to bring your own if you'd like. Please join us to learn more about this compelling book of the New Testament. If you have questions or need child care, please email Mother Tara.

## **NEW ADULT FORUM**

**Wednesdays, 7:00-8:15 p.m., beginning September 24**

### **Talking Across the Divide:**

***How to Communicate with People You Disagree with and Maybe Even Change the World***

In our polarized culture, it's harder than ever to engage with people outside our bubble and have our views heard. Whether we're debating online, arguing with a relative at Thanksgiving, or working toward social change, the arguments that resonate so well with like-minded allies don't hold much weight with people on "the other side." At a time when a simple conversation can quickly turn into a battlefield, it's up to us to learn how to talk to one another again.

We'll take five Wednesdays, September 24–October 22, to discuss Justin Lee's book *Talking Across the Divide*. Lee is a social activist, who has spent years building bridges between conservatives and progressives. He reveals how to use empathy, storytelling, and strategic dialogue to break through barriers that make people resistant to differing views. Together we'll gain fresh insights to understand people outside our own echo chamber, expanding our tools to make a difference in an us-vs.-them world.

How to Communicate with People  
You Disagree with and Maybe Even  
**CHANGE THE WORLD**



Sign up at St. Andrew's Ministry Fair on Sunday, September 7, or in the Parish Hall any time before we start. You can also email Jim Hoover ([jimhoover@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:jimhoover@stanfordalumni.org)). The sooner you sign up, the sooner we can order books. Books will be \$15.

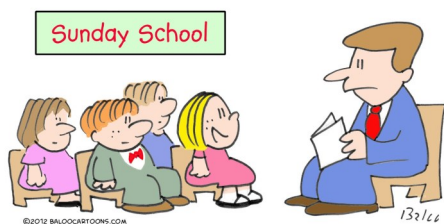
# St. Andrew's Sunday School

REGISTRATION

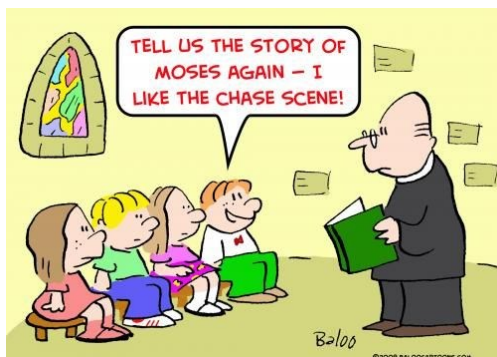
## SUNDAY SCHOOL IS STARTING SOON

Sunday School classes begin on Sunday, September 14 at 9:45 AM. As in the past, students will have a lesson with related activities and music before returning to the service with their families at the Peace. Classes meet most Sundays at 9:45AM, with the exception of Family Service days, Single Service Sundays, and certain holidays.

Register your student age 4 through 5th grade using the QR code. Registered families will receive all of the details about the first day of class in their emails in early September.



"'Twelve Apostles'? — You mean Jesus had a *focus group*?"



# YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

## NEED YOUR HELP!

We need more adult helpers to make our programs (and our children!) thrive. Can you help?

You can be a one-time helper or a regular volunteer.

Sunday School is most Sundays from 9:45-10:30 AM and serves children in grades Pre-K through 5.

Youth Group events are one Sunday per month from 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, plus assorted other one-time activities.

Youth Group is for students in 6<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> grades.

Email Mother Tara at [tosborne@saintandrewschurch.net](mailto:tosborne@saintandrewschurch.net) or sign up in the gathering space.



SAVE THE DATE

Mornings, June 22 - 26

VBS

Vacation Bible School

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

1125 Franklin St., Downers Grove

2026



## YOUTH MUSIC AT ST. ANDREW'S

The Youth Choir will be singing for the first time this year for our St. Andrew's Day Celebration, on Sunday, September 7th. This date will be before we start our actual choir rehearsals, but we will be singing one of our VBS songs that day. I would like to invite any VBS participants, youth and volunteers to join us in singing the song "On the Road With God" We will rehearse

that Sunday in the church at 8:30am, so that everyone will feel comfortable singing during the service. Please wear your VBS shirt if you have one. Singers in the choir who do not have a VBS shirt should wear their Youth Choir shirt. Choir families and VBS participants will receive an email containing more information closer to our September 7th singing date.

I'm looking forward to a new choir year. I hope that all our singers from last year, will return to sing in the Youth Choir again. I invite new singers to join the choir if they are in kindergarten through 8th grade. Look for me at the Youth Choir table on St. Andrew's Day, September 7th, to sign up to join the choir. If you can't be at church that day to sign up, just come to our first rehearsal on September 14th, in the Youth Choir room, after receiving communion. Please check your Youth Choir shirts to see if it still fits. It looks like many of the singers have grown and may need a larger size shirt. I'll be happy to exchange a smaller shirt for a larger one. Return the smaller shirt to me so it can be washed and reused by another choir member.

Please mark your calendars for the first Family Service, of this school year, on Sunday September 28th. Contact me if you have any questions. 630.464.2610 or [cpstansbury3@gmail.com](mailto:cpstansbury3@gmail.com)

Kindly,





## **YOUTH GROUP MISSION TRIP** **with Church of the Holy Nativity**

In late July, Mother Tara took several St. Andrew's students for a week-long trip into downtown Chicago to learn and work on issues of environmental justice. Our youth group joined students and leaders from Church of the Holy Nativity, Clarendon Hills and Trinity Episcopal Church, Asheville, North Carolina, on a mission with Be The Neighbor, a national youth-mission organization founded by the United Church of Christ. Our group slept on air mattresses in the basement of the Broadway United Methodist Church and went out on adventures each day from the home base near Wrigley Field.

The first day we went to the Field Museum to learn about the indigenous peoples of the Midwest. That afternoon we took time to pray and meditate on the lake shore. Next, we took a "Toxic Tour" of the Altgeld Gardens neighborhood on the far South side of the city and learned how toxic waste dumps and other pollutants are systematically concentrated in areas with large minority populations and low economic resources. The pollution leads to many other adverse health factors, such as high rates of asthma, cancer, and pregnancy complications. After that we spent a very hot afternoon pulling weeds and spreading mulch at A Just Harvest in the Rogers Park neighborhood. A Just Harvest is a multi-faceted neighborhood organization that runs a community kitchen with daily free meals, food pantry, wellness center, and community gardens. (Find out more at: <https://ajustharvest.org>) The next day, we visited the "Wild Mile" on the Chicago River, a shoreline restoration project by Urban Rivers that has brought back many native animal species to the Chicago River, including otters and beavers! We also got to go on the Architectural Boat Tour to learn about the history of the river and the efforts to clean it of pollution.

Now we're excited to bring all that we learned back to our community! Our students made a video about their plans to continue caring for God's creation, and it's posted on the St. Andrew's and Episcopal Diocese of Chicago Facebook pages. Check it out! St. Andrew's 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders will be partnering with CHN teens for monthly youth group meetings, social events, and another mission trip next summer to Casa Hogar near Puebla, Mexico.

## PUMPKIN PATCH NEWS

Last year we co-sponsored a Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser with the Church of the Holy Nativity (CHN) in Clarendon Hills. It was the first Pumpkin Patch Fundraiser for both of our churches. Many great things came about from this event that enriched the lives of those less fortunate than many of us:



- We sold about 600 pumpkins that enabled us to donate almost \$800 to Casa Hogar as well additional financial contributions to PADS, and a local FISH pantry by CHN.
- Additionally, the pumpkins we purchased benefited the Navajo nation.
- Pumpkins were purchased and donated to PADS for 45 children to turn into Jack-O-Lanterns.
- Approximately 100 pie pumpkins were delivered to FISH food pantry for food insecure people
- Kurt delivered small pie pumpkins to a senior home to help the residents celebrate and enjoy Halloween
- Mother Tara and Rachael, the Children's Ministry Director at CHN, connected and were able to combine our small but growing teenage groups to do a mission trip in Chicago and are hoping to have a mission trip with the teenagers to Casa Hogar next year. *Please see Mother Tara's article in our newsletter for more information on the mission trips.*

This year we are more experienced and will implement what we learned last year. Some of our expenses were for reusable items, signs, costumes, and banners so we will have less expenses this year. Additionally, our supplier is confident this year's sales will be even higher, and they will be sending more pumpkins to us this year.

We are looking for someone to research environmentally friendly ways to dispose of unsold pumpkins and bales of straw. Zoos, stables, and farmers with animals who eat pumpkins or straw are places that may welcome free food. If you know of anyone or would be interested helping with pumpkin disposal, please contact Kathy Seidler or Dave Howland.

Be sure to watch for additional updates as the time approaches.



## Church *of the* Holy Nativity

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*Clarendon Hills, IL*

You may have noticed you've been hearing a lot lately about our neighbor, the Church of the Holy Nativity, and that's because we are partnering with CHN on a host of great adventures in the months to come. We have been working with CHN for years on Interim Housing Center (Dupage PADS) ministry, and we share Deacon Rose with CHN, too. Last year we joined forces for the pumpkin patch fundraiser, which was tons of fun, and this past summer our youth went on a mission trip together.

We had so much fun together that Rachel Snavely (youth formation director at CHN) and I decided to fully merge our youth group programs (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders) for the 2025-26 school year. Each month, we will host one youth event at St. Andrew's, and CHN will host one youth event there. And we are already planning another joint summer mission trip in 2026 to Casa Hogar in Mexico.

The future of the Episcopal Church (and all Christian denominations) is collaboration between parishes. Sharing resources, knowledge, and building broader community benefits us all. It's so much fun to get to our neighbors in the next town over, and together we can do so much more! We hope to see you at the pumpkin patch this fall, especially at the chili cook-off on October 25<sup>th</sup>, which will be a fundraiser for the 2026 summer mission trip.

# THE GOOD NEWS GARDEN NEEDS YOUR HELP

We are planning our fall cleanup session and would love your help in putting the garden to bed for the season.



Depending on how many helping hands we have, this would likely take an hour or so.

Date/time TBD.

*Please contact Anne Nelsen if you'd like more information or to help!*

## GARDEN UPDATE

By the time you read this, we'll have harvested over 200 pounds of fresh produce this summer. We are currently harvesting tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, beets, green beans, swiss chard, and peppers.

Turnips, beets, and radishes are in the ground for a fall harvest.

Donations are made weekly to the FISH food pantry as well as the food pantry at the Downers Grove Public Library.





## **INREACH EVENT!**

### **All Ages Mini Golf!** **Saturday, 9/28, 1 PM** **Lost Mountain, Woodridge**

We will meet at Lost Mountain Adventure Golf (1535 75th St., Downers Grove) at 1pm in the back parking lot on Saturday, September 28.

All attendees will pay on that date (\$10-12 per person at the gate).

Please sign up in the Gathering Space by 9-22.

If you have any questions you can reach out to Chloe or Anthony Banda.

## **SAVE THE DATE(S)!**

We've got a spooky announcement for you,  
 This October get ready for Trunk or Treat times two!

- Saturday, 10/25 at Holy Nativity Church during our Pumpkin fundraiser
- Sunday, 10/26 here in our St. Andrew's parking lot!

We'll park our cars and decorate our trunks,  
 Kids and families come in costumes and gather candy by the bunch!

Mark your calendars—it's double the cheer,  
 Two chances for Trunk or Treat this year!



## **THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING**

The Daughters will be meeting Sunday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 9 AM in the Phil Room at St. Andrew's.

The Order of the Daughters of the King, St. Marie Chapter, is open to all women of St. Andrew's who are interested in prayer and service. If you are interested in learning more about the discernment process for joining, please contact Angeli Tompkins or Barbara O'Dell.



If you have a prayer request, please reach out to Elaine Johnson Cook, Angeli Tompkins or Barbara O'Dell.

### **CHRISTMAS BASKETS**



We have an opportunity to make a happier Christmas for struggling families in Chicago.

St. Andrew's has a long tradition of providing Christmas gifts and food for struggling families in Chicago through the Revive Center. We will receive a list of 30 families of various sizes with their gift wish lists in mid-October to be sponsored by members of our congregation. In addition to gifts (\$30-50 per person suggested) the donor will provide Jewel gift cards and an optional donation to Revive to support the cost of the program. You may get together with another person or family from St. Andrew's to provide for your Revive family. For questions, contact Chloe Banda or Ellen Webb.

### **ECW GIFT CARDS**

The next order date for gift cards through ECW (Episcopal Church Women) is September 14. There is a large list of available cards from groceries, gas, dining and so much more! You order the cards and pay face value and ECW purchases them at a discount. ECW raises approximately \$2,000 a year from this program, providing funds to charities in the community and needed items in St. Andrew's. For information contact Ellen Webb.

# PASTORAL CARE CORNER

## Autumn Months



O God of Creation,  
you have blessed us with the changing of the seasons.

As we welcome the autumn months,  
may the earlier setting of the sun  
remind us to take time to rest.

May the brilliant colors of the leaves  
remind us of the wonder of your creation.

May the steam of our breath in the cool air  
remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.

May the harvest from the fields remind us of the  
abundance we have been given  
and bounty we are to share with others.

May the dying of summer's spirit  
remind us of your great promise  
that death is temporary and life is eternal.

We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.

## **PRAYER**

AI states: “People primarily pray for themselves, their families and friends, and for guidance, strength, healing, and forgiveness. They also pray for blessings, express gratitude, seek help in difficult times, and sometimes pray for broader issues like natural disasters, the well-being of others, and societal peace.”

The Labyrinth is simply a tool for prayer, yet prayer is not simple. Prayer requires consistent effort and discipline. We find we need humility to rely on God. Jesus knew this when the disciples asked, “Teach us to pray.” Jesus spoke directly from God.

The C.S.Lewis Institute says, “As you prayer walk, your prayers extend beyond your own concerns, focusing directly on the needs of others and opening yourself to see them with God’s eyes and heart.”

The Labyrinth Committee has begun planning for the Open Sunday Walks and programs for this coming church year. The Sunday times are 9 a.m to 9:30 a.m. and 11:20 a.m. to 12 noon. The first walk time has been shortened by 15 minutes in order for set up for the Sunday children’s music program. The Open Sunday Walks will begin on September 14th.

We invite everyone to come to the 3rd Floor, take a look, ask questions or come to walk in prayer in a blessed prayer tool.



## COMMUNITY KITCHEN

The Community Kitchen at St. Andrew's has seen an increase in diners over the summer, and it appears the higher numbers will be continuing. We are very appreciative of the parishioners who regularly sign up to bring grocery items for meal prep—but we're looking to add some additional shoppers...



**Can you pick up a few grocery items this week and drop them off at the church?**

Please check the Community Kitchen Grocery Wish-List in the Gathering Space and sign up! Thanks to your help, we're now feeding 30+ diners each Friday, and 15+ diners each Sunday.

# ALL ABOARD!!!



St. Andrew's PDO for 2-4 year olds  
begins September 16, 2025

*Register now at [saintandrewschurch.net](http://saintandrewschurch.net)*

# SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

September 1  
Linda Battaglia

September 2  
Cassie Fanone  
David Schultz

September 3  
Hilary Cleary  
Vera Dicke  
Ryan Henricks  
Tina Horazy

September 4  
Dan Detwiler  
Nolan Everaert  
Jeff Roberts

September 5  
Dave Wilderman

September 6  
Marjorie Bell  
Deni Cantrall  
Bill Waltek

September 8  
Leslie Keros

September 9  
Payton Antonoff  
Thomas Dicke  
Cathy Holder

September 11  
Pam Bredrup  
Mark Nelsen

September 12  
Matt Andrews

September 14  
Laura Morris

September 15  
Staci Everaert  
Amelia Hansen  
Gary Nazzarini

September 16  
Margo Henricks

September 19  
Joe McCollum

September 20  
Taylor Horazy

September 21  
Cal Turner

September 22  
Lucas Smith  
Wally Young

September 23  
Sandy Bonomo  
Pam Kalafut  
Mike Maher  
Kara Parker  
Donna Wilson

September 24  
Charlie Maher  
Joanne Schupbach  
Lyra Fuentes

September 25  
John Toussaint, Jr.  
Harrison Platt

September 26  
Kathy Nelsen  
Janine Pickett  
George Newcomb

September 27  
Tom Winningham  
Edison Leander

# SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

September 3  
Diane Hessinger & Mark Frankart

September 6  
Bill & Peggy Sheehan  
Dennis & Heather Smith

September 7  
Nina & Sam Kuhlman

September 8  
James & Whitney Hiserodt  
Brian O'Leary & Elaine Cheng

September 9  
Ginger & Roger Cantu

September 18  
Joe & Susan Vitti

September 19  
Bob & Sandy Bonomo  
Alissa & Jim Kartsounes

September 22  
Joseph Myers & Carmelo Esterrich

September 26  
Cassie & John Fanone

September 28  
Michael & Tonia Rawson

September 29  
Bill & Donna Hurst

# OCTOBER CROSSCURRENTS ARTICLES



**ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 22, 2025.**

Facebook: Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church of Downers Grove

Rector  
Associate Rector  
Assisting Priest  
Deacon  
Chaplain  
Chaplain  
Chaplain  
Chaplain  
Parish Music Director  
Organist  
Parish Administrator  
Youth Music Director  
s Ministry Coordinator  
Bookkeeper  
rents Day Out Director

Jack Courtney  
Laura Holm  
Janine Pickett  
Tim Seidler

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist  
*In-person and on Facebook Live*

