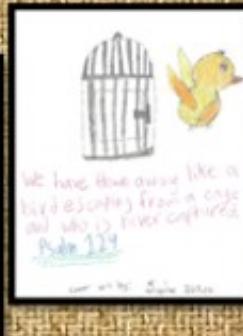
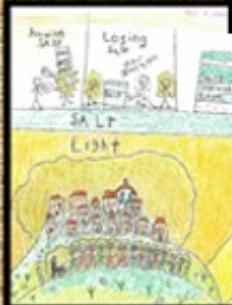


# CROSSCURRENTS

CURRENT NEWS AND THOUGHT FROM ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

February 2026



## What Will You Do with the Winter Blahs?

As I sit writing this, we are in for a polar vortex over the next few days that will send the daily **high** temperatures below zero. That just seems *wrong* - a “high” that’s a negative number! But then again - it’s Chicago, and it’s January. For those of us who have lived here a while, we should know to expect the deep-freeze as a periodic reality during winter. And there is absolutely nothing we can do to change it - it just happens. It’s that time of year for the Winter Blahs.



Yes, I get a case of the Winter Blahs every year about this time. Many people I know do, too. It’s natural, I think. And by *natural*, I mean that it is part of the reality of the rhythms of our natural world. As one of my favorite Christmas hymns recalls, “In the bleak mid-winter / frosty wind made moan / earth stood hard as iron / water like a stone” (*Hymnal 1982*, #112). The earth and the whole natural world seems to pull into itself and hunker down for a spell. And that hunkering-down time is actually resting and renewing the earth for the frenetic explosion of growth that happens every spring. It is a necessary pulling-in that fuels the bursting-forth. Could it be that there is wisdom there for us as the human part of the natural world? I wonder.

Maybe we can take some time during this bleak “mid-winter” for our own renewal, of sorts - a turning inward. In our very production-oriented and externally-focused culture, this is in some ways counterintuitive for us. And perhaps, for some of us, it feels uncomfortable or scary, because it is something we don’t often practice. I’ve known lots of people in my life who don’t like to be “left alone with their own thoughts”, and there can be very good reasons for this sometimes - past trauma, depression/anxiety, guilt or shame or regret for things that have happened. We are complicated people, all of us. So some of us - myself included - need to be a bit cautious and mindful about how we turn inward, and what we do. In other words, it’s good to have resources when going into unfamiliar or scary territory. So, I can share a couple of resources I am using during this season of turning inward, as examples. I’m certainly not saying these are “one size fits all,” but they are my experience, and I share it in hopes that it may give others some ideas for embarking on this hunkering-down project.

For me, this reflective posture is not an all-day, every-day enterprise. I don't spend *all* my time looking inward. If I did, I suspect that I'd not get out of bed until mid-March! I do, though, try to take some extra time each day for inward reflection. I say "extra" time in this sense, because I try (and don't always succeed) to spend some "quiet time" each day in prayer, reflection, and meditation. It's just that right now, during this natural period of hunkering down into oneself, I am trying to spend a little extra time doing this than I might during the other seasons of the year. It's a way of slowing myself down a bit.

I am also reading a wonderful book during this season by John Philip Newell entitled *Sacred Earth, Sacred Soul: Celtic Wisdom for Reawakening to What Our Souls Know and Healing the World* (which, by the way, was my gift to the St. Andrew's Staff this Christmas). I love his idea, which comes from Celtic wisdom and tradition, that our souls already *know* how to be in relationship with God - it's just that we have become disconnected in many ways from our own souls and this soul-wisdom. So it's not so much learning how to be in relationship with God as it is *remembering or discovering* what our soul already knows. Wow! It's the kind of book that you can read and digest little bits of at a time, which makes it ideal for a daily practice. And the subject matter deals with looking into ourselves, so it seems ideal for this season.

So, my answer to "what will I do with the Winter Blahs?" is to go with the natural flow of this season, but with some guardrails as I mentioned above. The discreetly set-aside times and the book are helping give necessary structure to my inward journey. I hope these small examples from my experience can jump-start your own creativity on what might work for you. The "bleak mid-winter" is here, whether we like it or not. We might as well see what it has to teach us, and we might well be surprised!

Love,  
Gregg+

## **DID YOU KNOW?**

Feeding Ministries are a major part of St. Andrew's' Outreach Programs and symbolize our devotion to serving those in need in our communities. The following highlights the scope of this work and the impact St. Andrew's made in our community in 2025:

**Sandwich Board** - in 2025 we made and distributed over 4300 bag lunches to Trinity in Aurora. Each lunch contains a ham and cheese sandwich, a bag of chips, a piece of fruit and a cookie as well as the mayo and mustard for the sandwich. There is a new signup sheet in the Gathering Space every month.

**Community Kitchen** - every Friday night we typically serve over 40 home cooked meals to the homeless and shelter deprived in our area; every Sunday afternoon, we serve another 15 meals to those looking for a hearty lunch. Funding for this ministry comes from volunteer donations and the Episcopal Charities of the Chicago Episcopal Diocese.

**Thanksgiving Dinner** - a St. Andrew's tradition. We prepare over 290 pounds of turkey, 90 pounds of ham and serve over 100 diners in-person as well as provide over 320 carryout meals. In total we serve Thanksgiving dinner to over 380 individuals from throughout the area. This is a huge effort involving over 90 volunteers -both parishioners and friends of St. Andrew's.

**Christmas Dinner** - on Christmas Day we prepared and distributed over 200 home cooked meals to those in need in our area.

**FISH** - we donated almost 2500 pounds of food and personal care items for the Downers Grove FISH pantry to distribute

While this is only a partial list, it represents the deep commitment St. Andrew's has to following Jesus in serving our neighbors in need. It's important to note that not one of these programs is funded by our operating budget. Every hour worked and every dollar spent is provided by a volunteer - both parishioners and friends of St. Andrew's - devoted to serving those in need in our communities.

## **ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

February 8, 2026

*Our 142nd Annual Parish meeting will be held on the  
Second Sunday after the Epiphany, February 8, 2026 at 10:30 AM.*

**There will be one Service at 9:00 AM on Sunday, February 8, 2026.**

The following positions will be confirmed  
as set forth by the nominating committee.

### **CLASS OF 2026**

*Junior Warden:*

**Janine Pickett**

*Vestry members:*

**Chloe Banda**

**Brandon Leander**

**Greg Lupia**

**Jamie Malone**

**Jim Morton**

*Diocesan Convention delegate:*

**Matt Andrews**

Profiles appear in the pages that follow.

## **FOR JUNIOR WARDEN (1 YEAR):**

### **JANINE PICKETT**

Our family has attended St. Andrew's since 2008. I was received into the faith in 2009 and my husband, Josh, and I were married at St. Andrew's in the summer that year. We have three children, Reagan (14), Sebastian and Caleb (11) who were all baptized at St. Andrew's as well. I joined the choir in 2009. Our kids were sometimes the only children in the nursery and attended many variations of Sunday school. They have sung in the youth choir for years. All three have joined acolyte crew and Reagan has joined the Adult Choir.



In 2017 at the Annual Meeting, the idea of Parents' Day Out was brought up and I felt a calling to use my unused administrative degree in education. Shortly after, I became the program's first director beginning that Fall. When the care needs of my father became too great in 2022, I stepped away from PDO.

Now that my children are older, I have offered my time and talents to St. Andrew's through scheduling the acolytes for services and serving on the Vestry. From the first Vestry retreat I joined Laura Holm in taking the reins of the Outreach committee restructuring and look forward to continuing and expanding that work as St. Andrew's Junior Warden.

## **FOR VESTRY (1 YEAR TERM):**

(to complete Steve DePeder's unexpired term)

### **CHLOE BANDA**

Chloe is the newest vestry member. She has been elected by the vestry to fill the vacancy left by Steve DePeder's out of state move.

Chloe has been a member of St. Andrew's since the early 2000s, where she grew up active in the Youth Choir, Acolytes, and Youth Group. She also took part in diocesan youth events such as New Beginnings, Happening, and especially Camp Chicago. These experiences led her to take a leadership role at Camp Chicago as Operations Director.

Chloe indicated that she feels she was truly formed and transformed by these communities, and she cares deeply about supporting similar opportunities for the youth and young adults in our diocese today.

Chloe also has been a part of the diocesan staff as an Operations Administrator, where she helped plan Diocesan Convention, and served on the Search & Nominations Committee in 2020 for the Thirteenth Bishop of Chicago.

In her professional life, Chloe works in healthcare for a data analytics and process improvement company supporting hospitals in Chicago and NW Indiana. Recently, she has enjoyed being involved with the In-reach and Hospitality Committees and is getting to know more of our St. Andrew's family through these communities.



## **FOR VESTRY (2 YEAR TERM):**

(to complete Janine Pickett's unexpired term)

### **JAMES MORTON.**

I was raised Roman Catholic, attended Catholic elementary school and public high school – all in the Cleveland, Ohio area. I graduated from Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. Gracia and I followed our daughter and her family from Omaha, NE to Downers Grove in 2021. Fortunately, our son already lived in the North Center neighborhood of Chicago so we now all live nearby - daughter, son, two sons-in-law and 4 grandchildren.



I joined the Episcopal church in the early 80's when I met Gracia. In Ohio I was on Vestry and a longtime member of our foundation. In Omaha my term as Junior Warden coincided with a major addition of a fellowship hall. Gracia and I very quickly joined St. Andrew's when we arrived in Downers Grove in 2021. St. Andrew's was highly recommended by our Omaha Deacon who grew up near Downers Grove. Also, prior to moving to Downers Grove Gracia did significant online attendance, one of the few positives of the COVID epidemic.

At St. Andrew's I am involved with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew's, Ushers, Casa Hogar 2023 mission trip, Men's twice monthly lunches, Community Kitchen (Friday night and Sunday grab-N-Go) and I assist with miscellaneous projects around the property.

I find most Episcopalians to be very kind, and St. Andrew's parishioners especially so. Weekly Sunday attendance and the many other opportunities for fellowship are a constant reminder to me of how to be a better person. I look forward as a Vestry member to helping grow this culture.

## **FOR VESTRY (3 YEAR TERM):**

### **BRANDON LEANDER**

I live in Downers Grove with my wife Tess, and our two boys, Edison & Vale. I am originally from Northern Minnesota and have lived most of my adult life in Minneapolis. My family & I moved to Chicago 6 years ago from Minneapolis.

My faith & church background and journey started by being raised in the Baptist Church as a youth and stayed involved in through early adulthood. I transitioned to the Covenant Church approximately 12 years ago and continued in that faith tradition until late 2024 when we started attending St. Andrew's. Since joining St. Andrew's I have been involved as a member of the Stewardship committee and the Endowment Fund committee.

In my professional life, I am the Head of IT & Digital for a global agriculture company, and I lead a team supporting our Vegetable business unit enabling our Sales, Marketing & Supply Chain functions. My undergraduate degree was from University of Northwestern in St. Paul, MN and my MBA is from Augsburg University in Minneapolis, MN.



## **FOR VESTRY (3 YEAR TERM):**

### **GREG LUPIA**

I was born in Brooklyn New York but grew up in the Chicago area and I currently live in Westmont. I grew up in the Catholic faith and attended catholic schools. After high school I enlisted in the Navy. After discharge I attended Baptist and Methodist churches before I found a home at St. Andrew's in 2007.

I've been a volunteer with PADS (now interim housing IHC) for 12 years and now support St. Andrew's community kitchen. I belong to the Brotherhood of St. Andrew.

The majority of my career was (38 years) with the nuclear power industry as a mechanical engineer. I retired in 2015 and have been consulting for nuclear power utilities.

I look forward to supporting St. Andrew's as a vestry member.



## **FOR VESTRY (3 YEAR TERM):**

### **JAMIE MALONE**

I grew up in the Cleveland area and attended a Croatian Byzantine Catholic Church, in which my family was very involved. After college and graduate school, my work took me from Cleveland to Los Angeles to Chicago. After moving to Chicago, the death of my father caused me to question my faith and I stopped attending church. Grief counseling at a Roman Catholic Church helped me to heal and come back to my faith. I found joy in teaching first and second grade religious education, helping the children to know the importance of Jesus in their lives. After about five years, travel for work required that I stop teaching, but I continued my involvement in church as a team member for DuPage County PADS.



I retired from the U.S. Department of Education in 2014. I then took a job at Nelnet and retired from there in 2020. I now keep busy by taking Pilates classes and volunteering at the Gingham Tree Resale Shop and the Red Cross. I love to travel.

My significant other passed away in 2023, and I again found myself unsure of my faith. Friends brought me to St. Andrew's. The welcoming spirit was very uplifting. I felt a sense of community that I had not felt elsewhere. I feel that I have found a place to explore and grow my faith and make new friends. I enjoy working as part of the Community Kitchen team and participating in St. Lucia. I am excited about a greater involvement through the Vestry.

## **FOR VESTRY (3 YEAR TERM):**

### **CHRIS NELSEN**

I am honored to be considered for the Vestry of St. Andrew's and pledge to faithfully represent our parish. My family and I have been attending St. Andrew's since 2017. I was raised Lutheran, with a dash of Presbyterian, and my wife Anne was raised Catholic. After some years away from the church, I was drawn to the liturgy, history, and Anglican tradition of the Episcopal Church. My family and I greatly enjoy growing our faith at St. Andrew's along with the wonderful community here. I am a lifelong learner and have been blessed to continue to learn and grow in my spiritual life at St. Andrew's in numerous ways.



Professionally, I have been in financial services for the last 9 years, with a focus on risk management. Prior to that I worked in the manufacturing industry running a plant supplying valves to nuclear power plants. I got into the nuclear sector with my experiences working in the nuclear plant of a submarine for six years.

As a family, Anne, Daphne, Briony and I enjoy spending most of our free time in our garden and backyard, as well as entertaining and cooking for our large extended family. Personally, I love to read, especially history and philosophy, cook, and play golf.

I am grateful for the consideration and promise to put faithful and diligent thought into my responsibilities as a member of the Vestry.

## **FOR CONVENTION DELEGATE (3 YEAR TERM):**

### **MATTHEW ANDREWS**

Matthew has been part of St Andrew's for seven years. He is a plumber by trade. He is married to Hannah Andrews who is a member of the choir. Matthew serves the church as part of his spirituality. Acts of service are a part of worship that he enjoys most. He is on the Buildings and Grounds committee. You have also seen Matthew when he is volunteering at Community Kitchen on Friday nights.



He served on vestry from 2020-2021 taking over a two year vestry term and a three year 2023-25 term. Matthew brings a youthful insight to the church. Matthew looks forward to serving the Church now and in the future.

### **2026 GIVING ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE**

In an effort to minimize wasted resources and reduce clutter, the envelope packs have not been pre-assigned. Instead, they are available to any parishioner who would like to have them by taking a pack (from the Gathering Space) and filling in the pack number on the parishioner list located on a clipboard with the envelopes. If you or someone you know would like envelopes but cannot find a time or remember to pick them up, just let Dellana (me), in the office, know and I will get a pack to you.  
([dmote@saintandrewschurch.net](mailto:dmote@saintandrewschurch.net) or 630-968-9188 or in person)



THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL ST. ANDREW'S

# Valentine's Day Variety Show

Saturday, Feb. 14

7:00PM

3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR @  
ST. ANDREW'S



Post-Show Valentine's Dance with

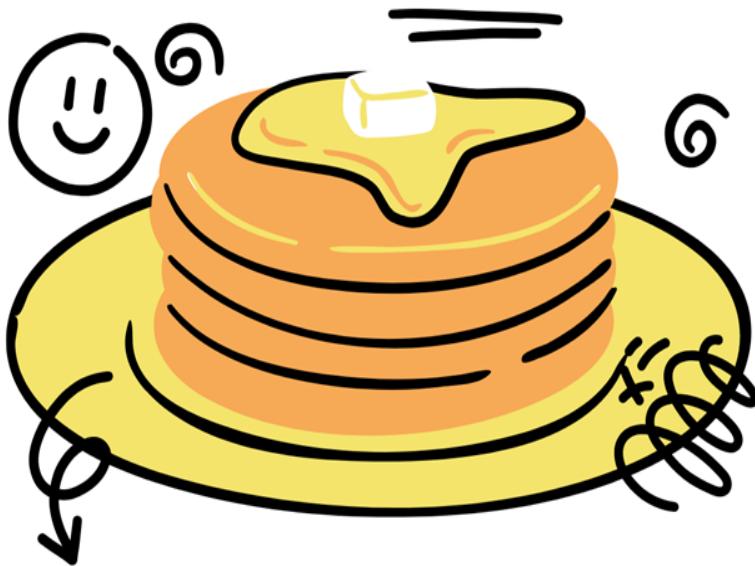
DJ Triple G (Father Gregg)

Drinks & Snacks  
Provided



Presented by  
Inreach

YOU'RE INVITED TO  
**SHROVE TUESDAY  
PANCAKE DINNER**



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH  
5PM - 7PM

FREE WILL  
DONATIONS TO  
ST. ANDREW'S  
YOUTH GROUP  
MISSION TRIP FUND  
ACCEPTED!



SIGN UP TO  
VOLUNTEER





*Ash Wednesday*  
*February 18, 2026*

*Service Times:*

**7:00 AM**

*(In-Person)*

**12:00 PM**

*(In-Person)*

**7:00 PM**

*(In-Person & Facebook Live)*

# RETURN OF LENTEN SIMPLE SUPPERS FOR ALL!!

Wednesday Nights, February 25 thru April 1  
6:00-7:00 PM. in the Parish Hall

As in the last few years, the suppers will precede the Wednesday night Adult Forum **except** for Ash Wednesday.

This gathering is held to make Wednesday nights *truly special* by sharing a simple meal with your friends and church family. There will be sign-up sheet for each Wednesday. Please indicate the number attending, so we know how many to set a place for. Additional columns to volunteer to bring **Soup, Bread, or Salad**, and to clean-up will also be on the sheet.



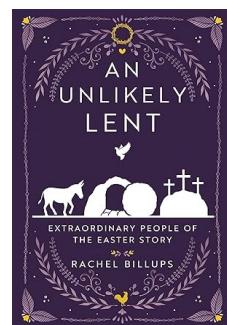
*This is one of those events that is just fun.* If you are free Wednesday night and did not sign up, **please come anyway.** Any questions please see Diana Rhoads ([bolzdiana6@gmail.com](mailto:bolzdiana6@gmail.com), 630-698-6120).  
And we look forward to seeing everyone!

## ADULT FORUM FOR LENT

*An Unlikely Lent: Extraordinary People of the Easter Story*

Wednesdays, February 25–March 25, 7–8 p.m.

The Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus are at the heart of the Easter story. But the events leading up to the Resurrection were not witnessed in isolation. We know the stories of Peter, James, and John. But what might we learn by reflecting on the stories of lesser known, sometimes unnamed, men and women in this story? People like Mary of Bethany, the Servant Girl, Barabbas, Simon of Cyrene, the women at the Cross, Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Their stories are the subjects of our Lenten meditations.



We'll be using a book by Rachel Billups, along with a DVD to explore these stories. The cost of the book will be \$20. Contributions can be made to the church specified for Adult Formation. Sign up in the Gathering Space. Direct questions to Jim Hoover ([jimhoover@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:jimhoover@stanfordalumni.org)). The Forum will follow Lenten Simple Suppers, which will run from 6–7 p.m. Feel welcome to attend either or both.

## ST. LUCIA GUILD

St. Lucia Guild will meet Wednesday, February 25 at 10:00 AM in the Bride's Room at St. Andrew's. Please note that this is the 4th Wednesday of the month. After our social time and business meeting, we will have a "show and tell" time. If you wish to participate, please bring one item which could be an antique or something that has special meaning to share with the Guild.

St. Lucia welcomes all new members. If anyone has questions about the Guild and its activities, please call Nancy Stapleton, 630-964-4494.



## ECW DOLLARS PROGRAM

**Did you know that NO FEE VISA CARDS in \$25, \$50 and \$100 are available to order through the ECW Dollars program?**

You pay face value and ECW purchases these and many more gift cards at a discount. Approximately \$2,000 a year is raised with this program and is used for projects in the Parish and charities in the community.

Gift cards, especially No Fee Visa cards are great for *any gift giving occasion or general purchases like groceries*. Orders are placed the first Sunday of the month, the March order dates will be March 1 and March 15.. Questions, contact Ellen Webb 630-235-9588.

## **YOUTH MUSIC AND CHOIR AT ST. ANDREW'S**

The month of February is a short month, but it will be filled with singing for the Youth Choir. We will continue to have our regular rehearsals after communion at the 10:00 service. On February 1st we will be singing at our first Family Service of the new year. Please meet me in the church at 9:30AM on that day. Choir singers should wear their Youth Choir shirts and join me in singing a special anthem for everyone in attendance.

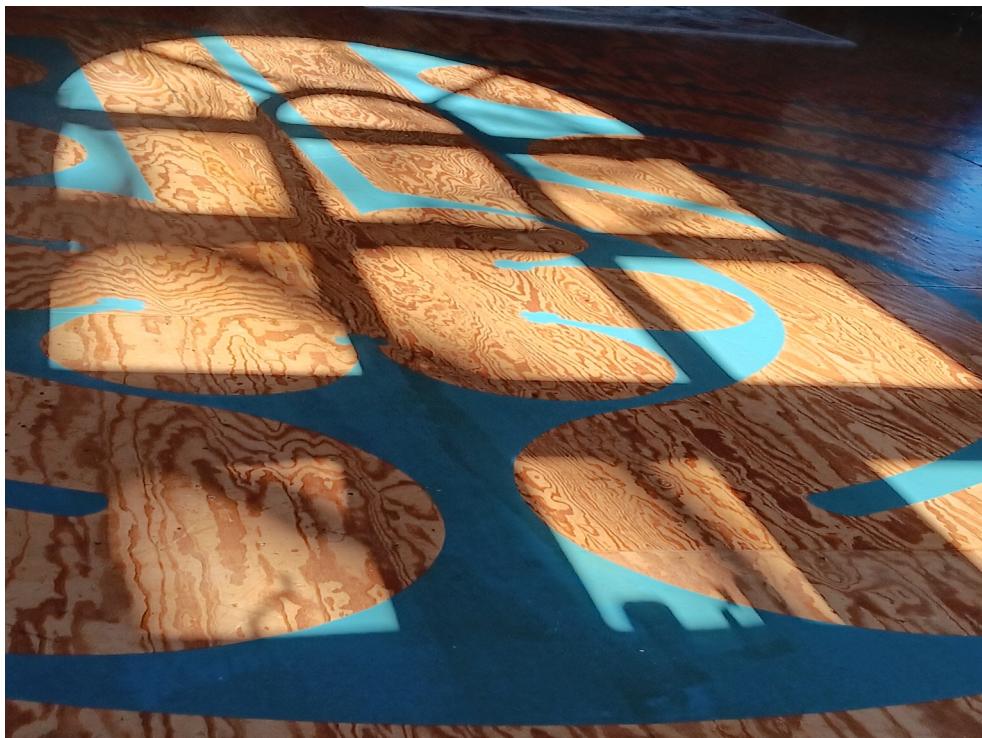


On February 8<sup>th</sup>, St Andrew's Church will conduct its Annual Meeting, and there will only be one service at 9:00am. We will have a choir rehearsal after the service that day. Singers should join me in the Youth Choir room to rehearse some new songs to be sung at the Family Service on March 1st and for Palm Sunday on March 29th. These March rehearsals will be very important as we are singing twice in the month of March.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Chris Stansbury





## **ST. ANDREW'S LABYRINTH**

We are now in February of 2026. We made it through last year and are now turning our attention to the promise of this new year. Where did your paths take you this last year? Through happiness, good health or challenging efforts?

Where will it take you this year? Maybe we don't really know. Maybe we do. No matter where our journey took us up to this point, it will continue. The Labyrinth Stewards invite you to visit the 3rd floor to walk part of your journey on our beautiful labyrinth full of prayers and Bible verses contributed by members and friends of St. Andrew's. Bring a friend, your spouse, your child to share this Holy space in quiet thoughts, prayers or to just walk and breathe together. It is your journey. Experience something new or familiar. A sacred space created for us all on our sacred path.

## **TESS LEANDER — SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**

Parishioners of St. Andrew's, I'm grateful to share that I now have a spiritual direction office located upstairs in the church building, and I'm delighted to be more physically present within this community.

Spiritual direction is a relational practice that offers space to notice and listen for God's presence in the midst of everyday life. It is not therapy, advice-giving, or problem-solving. Instead, spiritual direction is a practice of holy listening. People seek spiritual direction during times of transition, deepening faith, spiritual dryness, discernment, changes in belief, grief, or simply a desire to pay closer attention to the sacred in ordinary life.



If spiritual direction is unfamiliar to you, I'm always happy to have a conversation—whether you're curious, wondering if it might be supportive for you, or simply wanting to learn more about what it is. I'm also glad to help parishioners connect with other trusted spiritual directors in the area.

If you know someone who might benefit from spiritual direction, I warmly welcome referrals.

You can learn more or get in touch at:

[www.tessleander.com](http://www.tessleander.com)

[hello@tessleander.com](mailto:hello@tessleander.com)

630-923-7242

I'm grateful to be part of the life of St. Andrew's in this new way and look forward to the conversations that may unfold.

Warmly,  
Tess Leander

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**Sunday, March 8, 2026**

**FEED THE NEED!**<sup>TM</sup>

“Feed My Starving Children” across the globe!

**Outreach/Brotherhood Event -  
Signup in the Gathering Space**

Our Brotherhood of St. Andrew men at St. Andrew's invites **families, individuals & friends** to participate in this year's FEED THE NEED "Packing Day" on **Sunday, March 8 from 1:30 to 3:30 PM** at Lisle Benedictine University.

**JOIN US AS WE AIM TO PACK A MILLION MEALS AGAIN!**

Pack *food*,

Give *hope*,

Save *lives*!

**Plan to join our fellow Chicago area churches & organizations supporting this effort!**

Jr. High and up youngsters are welcome along with any friends and family of all ages. \$10 registration donation to help cover costs requested by the week prior to the event. Please see Kurt Wiesner with any questions.

## FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

<b>February 1</b> Audrey Eaton	<b>February 8</b> Janie Bouzek-Cross	<b>February 17</b> Maya Cross Josh Horeled Olivia Tarbutton	<b>February 23</b> Diane Hall Rusty Johnston Hunter Smith
<b>February 3</b> Jo Ann Matejczyk Sofia Pieranunzi Jason Weinell	<b>February 9</b> Jennifer Robbins	<b>February 18</b> Jean Heraty	<b>February 25</b> Barb Carraro
<b>February 5</b> Karen Elise Clay	<b>February 11</b> Nora Gallagher Dennis Smith	<b>February 19</b> James O'Leary	<b>February 26</b> Laura Howland
<b>February 6</b> Jane Beatty Mike Pecoraro	<b>February 13</b> Chris Chika Mary Jane Haley Vicky Hardman	<b>February 20</b> Diane Sellinger	<b>February 27</b> Missy Hansen Christopher Young
<b>February 7</b> Jim Morton	<b>February 14</b> Connor Hickey Wally Holder	<b>February 21</b> Chloe Banda	<b>February 28</b> Gail Lupia Jim Wilson, Sr.
		<b>February 22</b> Amanda Slezak Heather Smith	

## FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

<b>February 1</b> Anthony & Chloe Banda
<b>February 6</b> Louise & Peter Trucano
<b>February 18</b> Kathy & Tim Seidler
<b>February 19</b> Darsey Moore & David Schultz
<b>February 25</b> Al & Pattie Woitovich

## MARCH CROSSCURRENTS ARTICLES



**ARE DUE FEBRUARY 23, 2026.**



## St. Andrew's PDO kids stay warm with cozy mittens by the campfire

Chilly winter temperatures inspired our recent craft choices at Parents' Day Out (PDO). Children created a snowman, handprint mitten, campfire and fuzzy hat craft. The children also spent some time exploring with colors through easel painting with tempera paint. We are now starting to work on a variety of Valentine-themed crafts.

The PDO children spend about an hour each day running around, playing games, and riding toy cars and bikes in the Parish Hall. This is a great way for them to have fun and be active, and is especially helpful in winter months when they tend to spend less time playing outside.

Now that we are halfway through the school year, we are already thinking about enrollment for the fall. Registration for the 2026-27 school year will begin for returning PDO families in March and will open up to new families in April. More details about registration will be provided in the March newsletter.



## **WHO WAS CATHERINE E. MORSE?**

St. Andrew's began as a chartered mission of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago around 1880. A "new" stone church was built on Franklin St. in 1897. As a mission parish, St. Andrew's was not fully self-supporting, and relied on part-time or supply clergy. Parish status was not gained until 1945, 65 years after its founding!

Catherine Elizabeth Dukat was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1826 and later followed her brother Arthur to America around 1870. Arthur was a successful businessman and purchased an 800-acre estate in the area that is now Avery Coonley school and portions of Denburn Woods and Gilbert Park. She later married Dr. Daniel Morse and became a member of the St. Andrew's mission parish. Catherine, as she eventually became to be known as Kate, was a Charter Member of the St. Andrew's Ladies Guild in late 1890's. In those days the women of the church were the prime fundraisers. As such the Guild was instrumental in paying for many things for the Church, including part of the Rector's salary. Money raised by the Guild was kept in a teacup in one of the lady's China cabinets. The all-male Vestry, as was the custom in those days, at one point demanded that the proceeds from the women's fundraisers should be given to the Vestry to be accounted for. The ladies politely and firmly refused. So, when the church was short of funds, the Vestry had to go hand-in-hand to the Women's Guild and ask for money in order to pay the Rector. Following Kate's death in 1903, C. P. Anderson, Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church the Diocese of Chicago, received a letter from Northern Trust Bank, as the Trustees of the will of Catherine E Morse, the sum of \$2000. As instructed, the earnings from this money were to be applied "towards the salary of the Minister-in-Charge of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Downers Grove".

Kate's gift of \$2000 in 1907 is the equivalent of \$80,000 in today's dollars! Each year since 1907 St. Andrew's has benefitted from her bequest and additionally her gift has now grown to nearly \$300,000. Also, dividends from the Catherine Morse trust, totaling over \$9,000, were applied toward St. Andrew's 2025 operating budget.

Earlier this year we spoke of Charles A. Young and the overwhelming benefit received by our church with his generosity in 1983. The story of Catherine E. Morse is equally astonishing in its support for the on-going mission of St. Andrew's.

In the coming months the St. Andrew's Endowment Committee will be sharing early thoughts with the parish to establish a Legacy Society to promote planned giving. Undoubtedly, we have our first two Charter members, Catherine E. Morse and Charles A. Young! If you think one person can't make a difference, remember these two individuals and their on-going support to our parish.

Our thanks to Carol and Glenn Spitler for their contributions to this story.

# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

## 1125 Franklin Street, Downers Grove, IL 60515-3551

Phone: 630-968-9188 E-Mail: [info@saintandrewschurch.net](mailto:info@saintandrewschurch.net)

Parish Website: [www.saintandrewschurch.net](http://www.saintandrewschurch.net)

Instagram: [@st.andrewsepiscopaldg](https://www.instagram.com/st.andrewsepiscopaldg)

Facebook: Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church of Downers Grove

### THE STAFF

The Rev. Gregg A. Morris	Rector
The Rev. Tara Osborne	Associate Rector
The Rev. Dr. Jo Ann Lagman	Assisting Priest
The Rev. Rose Cicero	Deacon
Sally Hedrick	Chaplain
Joanne Schupbach	Chaplain
Diane Sellinger	Chaplain
Diana Bolz Rhoads	Chaplain
Kathryn R. Nazzarini	Parish Music Director
James Hoover	Organist
Dellana Mote	Parish Administrator
Chris Stansbury	Youth Music Director
Amy Smith	Children's Ministry Assistant
Chris Ponstein	Bookkeeper
Liz Foreman	Parents Day Out Director

### THE PARISH VESTRY

Gracia Morton, Sr. Warden  
Bob Sellinger, Jr. Warden

Diane Sellinger, Clerk of the Vestry  
Mike Dunn, Parish Treasurer

#### 2023

Matt Andrews  
Neil Cleary  
Malinda Hamann  
Gary Robbins

#### 2024

Chloe Banda  
Barbara O'Dell  
Jacob Osojnak  
John Toussaint

#### 2025

Jack Courtney  
Laura Holm  
Janine Pickett  
Tim Seidler

### WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Sunday      8:00AM      Holy Eucharist  
*In-person Only*

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

