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LOVE

*in action*

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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## DISCOVERING YOUR WAY

In 2024, we set out to find a pathway for people like you and me to experience heaven in this chapter of eternal life while we prepare for the chapters to come. Through two sermon series, a booklet of daily reflections on Scripture, and study and conversation among the Vestry, we've discerned that this pathway is really a series of pathways. And as we follow each of those pathways through spiritual practice, we find the kingdom of heaven opens to us more fully in the here and now.

These pathways come from our Baptismal Covenant, the promises we make each time we welcome people into God's family or stand beside them as they renew their commitment to following Jesus. Our past presiding bishop, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, has named the pathways as the "Way of Love"—seven spiritual practices to help us follow Jesus more nearly, day by day.

- **Turn:** Pause, listen, and choose to follow Jesus.
- **Rest:** Receive God's grace, peace, and restoration.
- **Bless:** Share faith, and unselfishly give and serve. (At St. Andrew's we've reframed this as two practices, Bless in Word and Bless in Deed, to help us be intentional about strengthening these related but different spiritual muscles.)
- **Learn:** Reflect on Scripture and other sources daily.
- **Worship:** Thank, praise, and dwell with God.
- **Pray:** Dwell intentionally with God daily.
- **Go:** Cross boundaries, listen, and live like Jesus.

As the clergy and Vestry analyzed the parish's programs and offerings, we found we're fairly strong in supporting some of the eight practices, especially Turn and Bless (both in word and deed). Other practices are areas for growth, especially Rest and Learn. This confirms the results of our pre-pandemic spiritual assessment, *RenewalWorks*, which found our parish culture much more wired for doing God's work than being and growing in God's presence.

These eight practices of the Way of Love at St. Andrew's give us nearly limitless ways to go deeper in relationship with God and each other. Rather than being a prescriptive pathway that all of us "should" take, the Way of Love lets us choose our own spiritual adventure—and the more broadly we sample, the more deeply we'll connect with the Love that created us, redeemed us, and sustains us. So, one of my goals for 2025 is to provide a tool you can use to **map your spiritual journey**, sampling from all the practices of the Way of Love. Whether you're just beginning to grow in your faith here, or whether you want to build new spiritual muscles, you'll be able to choose among what St. Andrew's offers in each of these eight practices. And your clergy would love to help you plan your adventure.

So, if our focus for spiritual growth in 2024 was marking pathways to heaven on earth, our focus in 2025 will be **Discovering My Way** along them. I say "my" intentionally to highlight the individual nature of our spiritual journeys: Although we take them together, no two journeys will look the same. Perhaps the focus on "my way" seems a bit self-centered, but I'd say it's not. Instead, it honors the fact that each of us is "awesomely and wonderfully made" by our Creator (Psalm 139:14 NASB). Your uniqueness requires a unique spiritual adventure.

How can St. Andrew's help you discover your way? First, your clergy would be excited to meet with you for some coaching—to assess where you are, how your spiritual practice is strong, and how you might go deeper in your relationship with God. Sometimes, I hear people say, "Oh, the clergy don't have time for that; they're busy running the church." Running the church certainly keeps us busy. But helping people find their way to heaven, now and later, is literally the reason we were called to be clergy in the first place. So, please, give us the chance to practice that primary piece of our calling.

This year, we'll also offer learning opportunities and sermons about big questions we all face on our journeys. Across the seasons of 2025—some related to the liturgical year and others related to the seasons and rhythms of our lives—we'll ask these eight questions to help you discover your way:

- **Epiphanytide: "Why Do I Serve?"** January and February, the weeks after Epiphany, are a time of bringing Christ's light to a world that often sits in darkness, so we'll explore why God calls us to love others, and the world, through service that lives out our faith.



The Rev. Canon John Spicer  
RECTOR

- **Lent: “Who Am I?”** From March to mid-April, our annual time of self-examination and repentance, we’ll explore what it means to be made in God’s image as we confront the brokenness of ourselves and our world.
- **Eastertide: “Whom Do I Dare to Be?”** From mid-April to early June, as we marvel at the new life Jesus’ resurrection brings us, we’ll explore what might be blocking us from becoming the fullest versions of ourselves.
- **Early Summer: “What Do I Do With Free Time?”** From June to mid-July, as our pace of life slows down a bit, we’ll explore how to unplug and go deeper with God.
- **Late Summer: “Where Can I Find Peace?”** From mid-July through August, as we continue our summer rest, we’ll explore practices that can help us exhale and lead us to peace that opens us to joy.
- **Back-to-School: “How Can I Connect in the Routine?”** From September through mid-October, as the school year begins again, we’ll explore how to find God in everyday life and how “the grind” can bring us blessing.
- **Thanksgiving Season: “How Can I Give *and* Receive?”** From mid-October through November, autumn’s time of gratitude, we’ll explore the dual blessings of giving without expecting return and receiving without the burden of guilt.
- **Advent and Christmas: “How Can I Catch My Second Wind?”** In December, as we wait for Jesus to come and then celebrate his presence, we’ll explore practices that can help us set aside time and space for the Spirit to transform this month of obligations into a season of connection.

In 2025, take the opportunity really to go somewhere. Walk the Way of Love, inspired by the Spirit and with Jesus at your side, to find heaven on earth now and prepare you for the journey of an eternal lifetime. St. Andrew’s is here to help you discover your way.

*Fr. John+*

## DISCOVERING YOUR WAY: BY WAY OF THE PEACE TRAIN

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In 1971, singer-songwriter Cat Stevens wrote the hit song *Peace Train*. Stevens wrote the song in response to the chaotic world around him. The early 1970s found the world grappling with division, conflict, and social change. He hoped his song would provide an antidote to the world's chaos. Stevens, a self-proclaimed lover of trains, saw them as symbols of journey and discovery—vehicles for exploring the world, oneself, and others. For Stevens, the message of his song was clear: No matter what we encounter in life, we can navigate the journey if we have inner peace. In a time when people longed for connection and calm, *Peace Train* became an anthem for those seeking a better way forward.

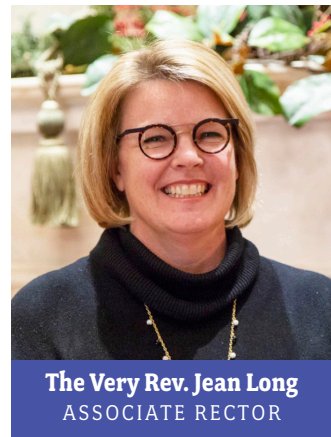
One of the greatest joys of my work at St. Andrew's is meeting visitors and guests who walk through our doors for the first time. Listening to their stories and learning what brought them here is a privilege. Over the past year, I've noticed a common theme in these conversations: a deep longing for community and connection. But it's not just any community they seek—they seek a faith community. They are searching for a connection to God and others rooted in the love that flows from God's presence.

Our world today feels eerily reminiscent of the early 1970s. Division and discord dominate the landscape, and many are searching for something deeper—something to ground them amid the turbulence. It is no wonder that visitors are searching for a place of peace. And not just visitors but our members, too. At St. Andrew's, we are poised to help people discover their way toward peace, offering pathways to spiritual renewal through practices that connect us to God, ourselves, and one another.

As we move through 2025, St. Andrew's is stepping into a pivotal moment where we are equipping individuals with the tools, resources, and support needed to discover the peace they seek in their lives. Jesus assures us in John 14:27: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." This kind of peace can only come from a relationship with the One who created us. When we nurture that relationship and align our lives with God's love, peace is a natural byproduct.

The Welcome and Discipleship Commission—which includes Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, 20s/30s Ministry, Adult Formation, Newcomer Ministry, and Discernment—will focus on creating cohesive programs and events inspired by the spiritual practices outlined in Fr. John's article. These practices serve as pathways for exploration, inviting individuals, families, and our community to embark on journeys of spiritual discovery, growth, and transformation.

This is the gift of the *Peace Train*. It's not a destination but a journey—one that invites us to live with intention, embrace the practices that nurture our souls, and find in God's love the peace that passes all understanding.



**The Very Rev. Jean Long**  
ASSOCIATE RECTOR

*Mtr. Jean+*

## WORSHIPPING AND CARING

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**The Rev. Rita Kendagor**  
ASSOCIATE RECTOR

One of my favorite stories in the Bible is that of the Good Samaritan. Although the Samaritan is generally hated by the religious and political status quo of that day, he proceeds to help a beaten person who was ignored by religious men, dress the beaten person's wounds, and transport that beaten person to a place of safety and comfort.

In some ways, 2024 reminds me of this story. Many of us are from diverse cultural and political walks of life, yet we continue to worship together, pray together, play together, and tend to each other's proverbial wounds together.

One part of my time at St Andrew's continues to be coordinating Parish Care ministries. This has been very stretching for me in a good way. One of the joys of this huge task is the dedication and involvement of both laity and clergy alike—from groups like the Order of St. Luke, Loaves & Fishes, and Andrew's Companions, to clergy hospital visits, care-facility visits, and home visits for prayer

and serving Communion. Being part of this highly organized entity has contributed greatly to my spiritual growth. One ministry that continues to grow is Andrew's Companions. These lay members spend their time visiting and praying for parishioners who either cannot make it out or have other challenges.

Since a contemplative life is one that I have been cultivating, I am truly fortunate to work at a place like St. Andrew's, which desires to grow in that area. I have had the privilege of continuing to lead Taizé worship at St. Andrew's. In 2024, there were nine Taizé services: three during Lent, three during the summer, one before Thanksgiving, and two during Advent. A contemplative form of worship, Taizé is a time of repeated short songs, Scripture readings, and intermittent periods of silent meditation. We offer Taizé seasonally, and those who attend have been appreciating this rich contemplative experience. After a recent Taizé service, one person, with tears in her eyes, said to me, "This has been so good for me. I can never get tired of Taizé."

Another contemplative offering is the Advent Retreat. I did not refer to it as a silent retreat this time, primarily because it was not a time of total silence. But we did sit in intermittent periods of silence as we sought to hear from God during the ancient monastic practices of *visio divina* (viewing sacred art) and *lectio divina* (hearing sacred writings). One person emailed her thoughts to me after this retreat:

"I think the thing that resonated with me was the *visio divina*, where we viewed an art piece of angels and the lambs on a dark starry night.... I loved the music with emphasis on angels and the Angel Gabriel. The day was a remarkable and peaceful way to get me ready for the joy of Christ's birth."

As St. Andrew's continues to grow in its appreciation of contemplative ministries, I have also expanded my abilities through continuing education. Having had a recent training on how to teach a Centering Prayer workshop, I had the opportunity to offer two workshops to our diocese, one in Kansas City and the other in Springfield. I find it has been good to sharpen these new contemplative skills at all levels, thus enhancing my ministry at St. Andrew's and beyond.

The weekly Centering Prayer meditation group, Sacred Spaces, continues to meet both in person and virtually. This group also has grown into a support group for other contemplative programs such as Taizé and retreats.

One part of my ministry at St Andrew's that I love is offering spiritual direction to parishioners. Being a certified spiritual director has enabled me to walk the path of spirituality with individuals who invite me into their spiritual sphere. Primarily a practice of supportive listening, the term "spiritual companion" describes more accurately what occurs during a session. Welcoming the Holy Spirit's presence is something that is done together, thus enriching the experience of spiritual direction.

*Mtr. Rita+*

## STILL PERSISTING IN HOPE

Last year, my message to you was entitled, “Persisting in Hope.” Sounds familiar given the preaching themes of the last month! We’ve been reminded of the importance of hope across our life experience; our relationships and well-being are important, as well as that of strangers.

I greet you this new year with a renewed spirit despite a few “bumps in the road.” As many of you know, I didn’t take my annual trip to the East Coast, and some of my ministries have been necessarily packed away in fond memory. I am, however, grateful to remain a part of this St. Andrew’s family. I now worship in the pews, make visits by phone or in person, enjoy Jewell Room hospitality on Sundays and the Back Porch Alliance on Wednesdays! Daily life is different indeed, but a spirit of hope has become more tangible, and a sense of peace is assuring—even when the roads bump.

I have found 18-plus years as a priest to be an amazing adventure, particularly so because of how it happened! A tour to China in the early 1980s concluded with a visit to the Forbidden City. Local children ran about in delight, their parents less excited; and I was alone for a while, leaning against a wall as tourists wandered about. Suddenly, I was not alone. To this day, I cannot fully explain what happened, but “the Holy” was clearly present. At the time, I had little interest in religion, thinking it could be attended to in later years! I was even less interested in “church!” Yet suddenly I *knew* the presence of God and heard the command for attention. Strangely I obeyed (which was not my usual response), and I knew the time had come to pack my bags for a new way of life.

I could say, “The rest is history,” but it was also a time I could not clearly understand. I came home from China and visited St. Mary’s, an Episcopal church downtown. At first, I played “come and go”; ultimately, I was in church every Sunday; and several years later (in a different church), I married the priest I had met at St. Mary’s! A few years afterward, I said to my husband: “Uh-Oh. I think God is calling me to be a priest.” That was not easily accepted, nor did it happen quickly! **Yet it happened!**

So, what does that have to do with hope? I believed that God’s will was both powerful and a response. I had long ago begun to wish for a meaningful life. That was *my* hope. Yet I never imagined my hope would land me in a church! I was also strangely timid (unless I was covered by a costume). Yet, one day, I read from a book by Alexander Schmemmann; the subject was described as “possible impossible.” The professor suggested that a women’s right and ability to become a priest was indeed *possible*. Yet such was **not** the acceptable thinking at that time! He argued that often we think something is impossible when, in fact, if we exercise courage and consider how change **can be** warranted, we might discover that what we thought was impossible is indeed possible!

And that is where I see hope—when we listen to life, pay attention to its mysteries, and honor the gladness. May you persist in hope and live in grace!



**The Rev. Anne Hutcherson**  
ASSOCIATE RECTOR EMERITUS

*Mtr. Anne+*



## EVANGELISM ON THE BORDERS

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**The Rev. Adam James**  
DEACON AND  
DIGITAL EVANGELIST

As we reflect on 2024, the landscape of digital ministry continues to evolve, presenting both challenges and profound opportunities for St. Andrew's. Reflecting on where we've been and where we are headed, I am struck by how God's mission is being carried out in the post-COVID digital age. While the tools may be new, the call to share the Gospel, build community, and serve others remains timeless. As a deacon, I see this work through the lens of service and outreach, and digital ministry has become an essential part of how we extend Christ's love to a world in need.

In many ways, digital ministry has broken down the physical walls of the Church. When the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated our need for online worship, St. Andrew's rose to the occasion. We discovered that virtual spaces could become sacred spaces. Today, our digital sanctuary remains vital for those who cannot attend in person due to illness, mobility challenges, or distance. They also serve as entry points for those exploring faith for the first time.

I have witnessed how livestreamed services, learning opportunities, and online prayer gatherings through Pray at 8 have opened doors for connection. A young mother who struggles to bring her children to church in person can now join the community from her living room. An older adult in a care facility can once again feel part of the Body of Christ. A seeker who stumbles across our livestream may hear the Gospel for the first time. These are not just numbers on a screen but lives touched by God's grace.

However, digital ministry is not without its difficulties. One of the most significant challenges is fostering authentic connections in a virtual environment. While technology allows us to reach more people, it can also create a sense of distance. How do we ensure that those engaging online feel truly seen and heard? How do we build deep relationships when so much of our interaction is mediated through screens?

As a deacon, I believe the answer lies in intentionality. Digital ministry must be more than broadcasting content; it must be about cultivating community. This means responding personally to comments and messages, creating opportunities for small-group connection, and finding ways to involve online participants in the life of our Church. It also means equipping our ministries with the tools and training needed to minister effectively in digital spaces. When we prioritize relationships, we reflect the heart of Christ.

The digital ministry tools of 2024 are more advanced than ever. At St. Andrew's, our social media platforms continue to reshape how we communicate and engage with those on the margins of the parish. While these technologies can feel overwhelming, they also offer new ways to share the Gospel. Virtual reality worship spaces, for instance, allow us to reach people in immersive, creative ways. AI tools can help us analyze data to understand our communities' needs better.

Yet, amidst these innovations, we must remain rooted in the traditions of our Anglican faith. The Eucharist, the other sacraments, and the communal aspects of worship remind us that some elements of Church life cannot be fully replicated online. Digital ministry should complement, not replace, the embodied gathering of God's people. By holding these two realities in tension, we can embrace technology without losing sight of the sacredness of in-person connection.

Digital ministry is not a trend but a vital part of how the Church fulfills its mission in the modern world. As deacons, priests, and lay leaders, we are called to discern how best to use these tools to serve others, proclaim the Gospel, and build the Kingdom of God. This requires creativity, adaptability, and a willingness to learn. It also requires us to ask tough questions: Are we reaching those on the margins? Are we using technology in ways that align with our faith and values? Are we measuring success by the number of likes or by transformed lives?

As we move forward, I invite you to join me in praying for the Church's digital ministry. Pray that it may be a source of healing, hope, and connection in a fractured world. Pray for wisdom as we navigate this ever-changing landscape. Pray that we may remain faithful to our calling, using every tool at our disposal to share the love of Christ and make all things new.

*Deacon Adam*

## VESTRY MEMBERS AS SPIRITUAL LEADERS

The St. Andrew's Vestry has functioned as the church's board of directors since the church's founding days. Committed men and women volunteer to oversee the temporal affairs of the church and support the clergy and staff. Vestry members serve three-year terms, and each represents a ministry commission, such as Outreach, Youth Ministry, Facilities, or Finance. One-third of the Vestry is replaced annually as the congregation elects new members at our annual parish meeting.

New members have found the Vestry's role is similar to that of boards of other organizations, whether they are faith-based or secular. The meeting schedule and agenda follow a predictable routine. The Vestry meets every third Tuesday of the month, minutes are recorded and ratified, required diocesan consents are provided, financial reports are discussed and approved, and important updates from the commissions are shared. Meetings last about two hours—sometimes less, making most members happy to get home a little early!

Beginning with the Vestry retreat in February, Vestry members coalesce through the year around the broad pillars of our mission—ministry, worship, fellowship, and outreach. St. Andrew's is blessed to have Vestry members from many walks of life step forward to serve. Two youth Vestry members joined during 2024, bringing a fresh perspective on our community's life. The Vestry's diversity is one of its greatest strengths and provides a solid foundation of expertise, wisdom, and common desire to see St. Andrew's and its people thrive.

Over the past year, the Vestry recognized that our spiritual selves had not always been transparent but are the critical factor that inspires us and informs how we serve our faith community. Sharing with others personal details of our spiritual journeys, challenges, and yearnings can be difficult. But the Vestry grew from understanding itself solely as a board of directors to explore how we, as leaders, had developed and continue to develop spiritually, as well as how we can more fully serve as spiritual leaders and mentors for St. Andrew's members.

We began with a discussion of the Way of Love theme that had been introduced through a Sunday sermon series. We read two books, *The Way of Love* and *The Heart of a Leader*, which caused us to think more deeply about our pathways toward heaven (now and eternally) and our personal journeys of faith. We explored what it means to be a lay leader, how our fears about leading can be overcome, and how we can be living examples of God's love for all people. We convened in small groups for about 25 minutes during each Vestry meeting to share personal reflections on the chapters we'd read. These discussions were the most important work we did collectively each month. As a result, God truly was at the center of our Vestry meetings.

The decision to move the Vestry meetings into a more spiritual realm was an intentional practice not attempted in recent memory; and, at first, it seemed risky. Would we manage to get the temporal affairs settled with less time allotted to them? Would we be patient enough to allow everyone to adapt to meeting in small groups? Would we get comfortable openly sharing our faith journeys?

Despite early trepidation about this radical shift in meeting priorities, the feedback at our December meeting to the question of whether to continue this spiritual practice was a resounding "yes!" We have materially changed how the Vestry functions and learned that our spiritual selves underpin our responsibility to our church and to each other. Great leaders lead by example—they're willing to take risks, be vulnerable, and learn from each other. Sharing our faith journeys is an exercise in courage and humility, characteristics that St. Paul preached to Timothy as Paul's ministry was tragically ending.

Your Vestry has forged a strong bond around a common goal—to grow closer to God and support parishioners' growth in their spiritual journeys. In 2025, we will continue "spiritual formation" practices as part of the monthly agenda. We look forward to the new Vestry members' contributions to our learning and our leadership. We are excited to say that the days of "same old, same old" Vestry meetings are in the past. The Holy Spirit has gifted us a new energy and perspective from which we hope St. Andrew's will benefit in the months and years ahead.



**Paul Wurth**  
SENIOR WARDEN



**Jewel Scott**  
JUNIOR WARDEN

*Paul & Jewel*

## MUSIC MINISTRY

### MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

Ashley Benes \*

Mark Burroughs \*

Jennifer Coil

Rebecca Crain \*

Kathy Fowler

Patrick Graham \*

Celeste Hofeling \*

Julia Jackson \*

Carol Kirila

Jed Kruger \*

Cat Larrison

Kent Maughan

Rory McCorkle \*

Ken Neufeld

Asher Tillman \*

Ashley Vozella \*

Cathy Vozzella \*

Lauren Auge\*, Assistant Director/  
Alto Section Leader

Allison Fikejs\*, Music Ministry  
Assistant/Soprano Section Leader

Dr. Jacob Hofeling,  
Organist/Accompanist

Dr. Thomas R. Vozzella,  
Music Minister/Principal Organist

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\* St. Andrew's Singers

*"We can mention only one point (which experience confirms), namely that, next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. No greater commendation than this can be found—at least not by us. After all, the gift of language combined with the gift of song was only given to man to let him know that he should praise God with both word and music, namely, by proclaiming [the Word of God] through music." – Martin Luther (1483-1546)*

As we begin 2025 proclaiming the Word of God through music, we first take a look at 2024—the many blessings we have received in Music Ministry and the people who make it all happen. 2024 was filled with many wonderful music-making opportunities. We'll highlight some of them here, along with other notable happenings.

**Epiphany Sunday** was enhanced by confirmations, baptisms, the annual visit of the Three Kings, as well as the addition of brass and tympani. It was a grand celebration of liturgy and song!

On **Palm Sunday**, we celebrated the centennial of the death of Gabriel Fauré featuring his beloved *Requiem* and other works accompanied by orchestra and organ, featuring our colleague and friend Dr. Jan Kraybill on the organ. Additionally, our fine section leaders sang individual works of Fauré.

On **Good Friday**, we introduced a new anthem to us, *The Crucifixion* by Margaret Bonds, which reached the hearts and souls of those worshipping as we offered this most dramatic musical rendering of Jesus's final hours.

**Easter Day** was filled with the excitement of singing "Hallelujahs," "Alleluias," and "He is Risen," all accompanied by our grand organ and chamber orchestra.

Shortly after Easter, I began my sabbatical, taken in segments during the spring, summer and fall. You may ask, "What does a musician do on a sabbatical?" Honestly, it's not much different than what clergy or academics would do during a sabbatical—research, reflection, and refreshment.

- **Research** was the creation of a book of spirituals for organ, many of which have been played during worship this past year. This book is in the final stages of editing. Publication is yet to be determined.



- **Reflection** was focused on preparing recitals and playing in some of our country's most notable historical institutions and worship spaces, offering time to enjoy the spiritual significance of each place. These recitals were presented at Harvard University on the historic Flentrop Organ (pictured above), Adolphus Busch Hall, Trinity Episcopal Church, and Kings Chapel in Boston; the Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul in Lewiston, Maine; Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in Auburn, Maine; and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd here in Kansas City. Additionally, I presented two recitals at St. Andrew's, one for the Lenten Recital Series and one for the Trinity Guild, as well as a private recital at the Community of Christ Temple in Independence.



- **Refreshment** happened in beautiful Rapid City in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Cathy was able to join me for this part of the sabbatical. We enjoyed catching up with friends, seeing the beauty of the region, and sharing down time. We also celebrated my birthday and our anniversary, which coincided with our trip. It was wonderful—refreshing and relaxing. I also accepted a last-minute invitation to join the Catholic Archdiocesan Choir of Atlanta from my friend Donal Noonan for their tour of Ireland. I did a little singing and played the organ for worship at St. Mary's Cathedral in Killarney. Additionally, I enjoyed playing the organs at Down Cathedral in Downpatrick and St. Patrick's Cathedral in Armagh, both in Northern Ireland.



I am most appreciative of Allison Fikejs, Lauren Auge, and Canon John Schaefer for their leadership during my time away. I am extremely thankful to Fr. John Spicer and St. Andrew's for making available this valuable time for research, reflection, and refreshment for staff members. Thank you!

On **All Saints Sunday**, we presented John Rutter's *Requiem* with chamber orchestra and organ. It was a wonderful celebration of life and beyond.

Our annual presentation of **A Christmas Carol** featured the carols of Alfred Burt as the musical and theatrical offering for the parish Christmas Party.

**Christmas Eve** was a time of great celebration as we welcomed the Christ Child. Rutter's *12 Days of Christmas* seems to have been a hit. At midnight Mass, we enjoyed the music of Michael Haydn. We offered his **Gabrielis Mass** and **Run, Shepherds, Run**. It was a lovely service featuring chamber orchestra and our section leaders as soloists.

All of this and more happens through the work of our dedicated **Parish Choir** members. There isn't a finer group of people I know who have committed their time and gifts than our Parish Choir. It is a true calling to give whatever it takes to make the most gorgeous music possible as an offering to our God and worshippers at St. Andrew's.

With a grateful heart for God's blessings, I give thanks for St. Andrew's and those who have committed to singing praises to our God.



*Dr. Thomas (Tom) Vozzella*

## WORSHIP COMMISSION

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Janet Kelley,  
*Vestry Liaison*

Fr. John Spicer,  
*Clergy Liaison*

Deacon Adam James

Mtr. Rita Kendagor

Mtr. Jean Long

Sharyn Blond

Kathy Fowler

Ellen Junger

Kent Maughan

Steve Sutton

Dr. Thomas Vozzella

Caroline Wake

Debra Waldorf

### COMMISSION MINISTRIES

Altar Guild  
Acolytes

Eucharistic Ministers  
Greeters

Lectors  
Parish Choir

Ushers  
Tech Guild



St. Andrew's worship wouldn't happen without the dedicated service of scores of parishioners. Some, like lectors and singers, help lead worship in more public roles; others do their best not to be seen—hence the Altar Guild sacristans wearing their gray robes. But *liturgy*, which comes from a Greek word meaning the people's work, is by definition *not* just the domain of clergy. The members of the Body of Christ come together, using their particular gifts, to “unite ourselves

with others to acknowledge the holiness of God, to hear God's Word, to offer prayer, and to celebrate the sacraments” (*Book of Common Prayer*, 857).

In our post-pandemic world, online worship continues to be an essential tool to connect people with God. In total, 41 percent of our Sunday worshipers are online, similar to what we saw in 2023. Interestingly, the patterns are different at the two morning services. At 8 a.m., worshipers are 43 percent in person and 57 percent online. At 10:15 a.m., worshipers are 66 percent in person and 34 percent online.

Combining in-person and online worship, and not including Christmas Eve in the comparison for each year, we saw an increased Sunday attendance in 2024 – 425, up 8 percent from last year. (Including Christmas Eve, average “Sunday” attendance was 455, up 7 percent from last year.) The larger Episcopal Church is still working on how to accommodate broadcast worship in its data reporting, so our parochial report will show a different total average Sunday attendance – 252, which counts only people worshipping in person. Here's some additional context: In 2019, the last full year of worship in the “before times,” our average Sunday attendance (in-person) was 362.

At the end of 2024, we decided to end our Trailside service on Thursday evenings. For two years, Trailside Thursdays included worship, dinner, and at least one learning opportunity. Worship attendance declined over 2024, with many of the people coming for the classes choosing not to come for the service. In addition, we received feedback that learning opportunities might be better attended if they were offered in a wider variety of times, formats, and settings (see the report of the Adult Christian Formation Commission).

The **Altar Guild** continued to support all our worship opportunities—Sunday mornings, the Friday Eucharist, weddings, funerals and special feasts and fasts like Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter, and Christmas. Our worship would not be what it is without the essential and heroic work of our 35 sacristans in gray. In April 2024, the Altar Guild celebrated 100 years of service. Current and former sacristans attended a cake-and-champagne reception in the Jewell Room. A commemorative photograph hangs in the hallway across from the coat rack.

Our **Eucharistic Minister** corps includes 17 parishioners, and we would very much like to increase our participants! Our EMs help serve Holy Communion at our Sunday services and funerals. Only a brief training is required! For more information, contact coordinator Sharyn Blond ([sharyn@sharynblondlinens.com](mailto:sharyn@sharynblondlinens.com)).



Our **Usher** and our **Lector** ministries also get many parishioners involved in supporting our worship life. Combining the 8 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. teams, we have 70 people serving as ushers and 34 serving as lectors (reading Scripture during worship). Among the lectors are teens who signed up following their confirmation class.

In 2024, our **Tech Guild** grew to 12 people who serve as digital sacristans by providing worship broadcasts online, collaborating with Deacon Adam James and the Communications Commission to provide worship and spiritual growth opportunities beyond Sunday mornings. We prioritized sharing weekly worship through our website, YouTube channel, and St. Andrew's Facebook page. Our online connections continue to grow, with more than 3,700 asynchronous viewers and listeners in the last year. In 2024, we also saw subscriber growth of almost 100 people on our YouTube channel. Additionally, we saw a 23 percent increase in new viewers via our website, [standrewkc.org/watch](https://standrewkc.org/watch), in 2024.

For information on our **Music Ministry**, see its separate report on p. 12.

## DISCERNMENT COMMISSION

The Discernment Commission meets confidentially with members of our parish who are exploring a spiritual calling (primarily, but not exclusively, a potential call to holy orders, either as a deacon or priest). We use active listening and open-ended questions to support parishioners throughout their journey.

In our group's tenth year, the commission had no new discerners from St. Andrew's for ordination. But two parishioners with whom we've worked in prior years—Jen (Sackhoff) Blevins and Keith Johnson—will be ordained as deacons in January 2025, and Keith will continue his journey toward ordination as a priest. The commission also met multiple times with Jami Blakeley, our first nominee in a Second Congregational Experience, a part of the diocesan discernment process in which individuals from other churches in the diocese are assigned to serve, worship, and participate at a second congregation as part of their discernment process.

Finally, during the spring, the Discernment Commission had the honor of hosting a Listening in Love Forum, which provided our congregation with a unique opportunity to come together and listen with respect, curiosity and open-minds to one another's viewpoints on a number of timely, yet potentially divisive, topics. By doing so, we sought to honor our Baptismal Covenant promises to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to respect the dignity of every human being.

# 425

2024 AVERAGE  
SUNDAY ATTENDANCE  
IN-PERSON AND  
ONLINE

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Cameron Rostron,  
*Vestry Liaison and Convener*

Ann Cranor

Fr. Jerry Kolb

Bruce Long

Joanna Martin

Randolph Oliver

Ann Rainey

Cindy Roth

Caroline Wake

Mary Yanics

## HOSPITALITY COMMISSION

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Joy Bower,  
*Convener*

Ann Renne,  
*Treasurer*

Carolyn Lathrop,  
*Vestry Liaison*

Betsy Gloe,  
*Secretary*

Mtr. Jean Long,  
*Clergy Liaison*

Betsy Allen

Diana Atteberry

Susie Egbert

Mtr. Anne Hutcherson

Jean Kiene

Joanna Martin

Susan Paynter

Carol Trettin

Caroline Wake

Geri Wurth

Mary Yanics

*“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.” – Hebrews 13:2*

The Hospitality Commission had the following goals for 2024:

- Increase membership on the commission.
- Increase visibility through the *Messenger* and Ministry Minutes.
- Collaborate with other commissions on projects.
- Foster parish fun and fellowship.

Hospitality hosted a breakfast for the Annual Parish Meeting in January. We offered a Middle Eastern Agapé meal before the Maundy Thursday service. After the Easter Vigil, we hosted a small champagne and chocolate reception. In July, Hospitality coordinated the popular Feast of the First Tomato potluck featuring BLT's and music from DJ Bobby Eddy. In September, we worked with the Children's Ministry Commission and Community Engagement Commission to host the All-Parish Picnic and offer an early Octoberfest at HJ's. In November, Hospitality hosted a celebratory coffee hour for our St. Andrew's patronal feast, complete with Scottish décor. The day was extra special because of baptisms and our visit from Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce to confirm and receive.

Hospitality also continues to coordinate weekly Ministry Minutes and Coffee Hour hosts.

We look forward to new projects for 2025 and will be participating in the celebration of the consecration of our new bishop of West Missouri.





# COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

In 2024, the Communications Commission implemented our strategic marketing communications plan to enhance the community’s experience of the church. Guided by Scott Burditt, the commission acted upon insights from a series of listening and planning sessions that identified ways to foster meaningful connections with the community. Consequently, we aimed to create engaging content, deepen our understanding of our audience, improve the digital experience, simplify communications, increase our targeted campaigns, and promote sermon series that have a relevant impact on everyday life and clear calls to action that can improve one’s life by connecting to God and our neighbor.

To enhance the effectiveness of our marketing communications (marcom) efforts, we are focusing on two primary goals: attracting new members and increasing engagement with our congregation. By utilizing targeted data from our various platforms, we are customizing our messages for parishioners who are actively involved in church life, those who are currently disengaged, and potential newcomers who interact with our communication channels. We aim to extend a warm message of welcome to everyone. These initiatives align with our church’s mission of “seeking God’s healing love and sharing that love with all by growing in relationship with God, each other, and our neighbors.”

Nancy Zarcone joined our staff in November to enhance our marketing efforts as St. Andrew’s new marketing communications manager. With Nancy’s guidance, St. Andrew’s communications team consists of three staff members dedicated to connecting with and motivating current parishioners, visitors, potential new members, and the broader community through in-person, print, and digital communications.

St. Andrew’s digital offerings continued to foster a hybrid connection with worshipers through St. Andrew’s podcast channel, where individuals can listen to a variety of podcast series, including **St. Andrew’s Spotlight**, **For All the Saints**, and our most recent series, **Together in Hope**. The total number of episodes played is 3,760.

After analyzing multimedia performance, the commission prioritized creating reels on Instagram and Facebook. In 2024, we experienced a 271% increase in our audience reach. Our Facebook page gained 104 new followers, our Instagram saw an addition of 81 new followers, and our YouTube channel welcomed 99 new subscribers.

The Communications Commission is dedicated to creating an improved experience for our parish family and community. With a new strategic marketing communications plan, the commission is establishing meaningful digital and print connections, providing original content, and analyzing multimedia performance metrics to ensure that the parish’s resources are focused on building users’ faith.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Scott Burditt, *Vestry Liaison*
- Nancy Zarcone, *Staff Liaison*
- Erin Lemanski, *Staff Liaison*
- Deacon Adam James, *Staff Liaison*
- Mtr. Jean Long, *Clergy Liaison*
- Phyllis Epps
- Ellen Junger
- Anita Strohm
- Joe Woodyard
- Mike Nichols
- Mary Patonai
- Blake Hodges
- Geri Wurth

20,152  
WEBSITE VISITORS  
IN 2024

3,760  
PODCAST PLAYS

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COMMISSION

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Stephanie Henson,  
*Vestry Liaison*

Jewel Scott,  
*Vestry Liaison*

Mtr. Jean Long,  
*Clergy Liaison*

Linny Carrier

Betsy Curry

Brian Gloe

Gina Heise

Carolyn Johnson

Craig Lundgren

Sarah Murray

Mark Sager

Melissa Sager

The Community Engagement Commission was created in 2023 with a mission to promote the community's well-being and to welcome, serve, form, and incorporate people into St. Andrew's.

Throughout 2024, the commission's activities and events attracted parishioners and members of the broader Brookside/Waldo community. Additionally, activities of the Community Engagement and Hospitality commissions often intersected or overlapped. The Vestry determined that the commissions should be merged in 2025 to facilitate coordination and collaboration in engaging with both the external and parish communities. Members of the Community Engagement Commission fully endorsed this plan, noting it was consistent with the original vision that HJ's and St. Andrew's would be seen as one campus with multiple entry points and both unique and reciprocal offerings for spiritual growth and participation.

The Community Engagement Commission completed its year by reading part of the book, *The Way of Love*. The ensuing discussion demonstrated the power of love, community, and engagement that commission members had dedicated to their work and to each other.

### SUPPORTING OUR PARISH

We continued to focus in 2024 on providing a more welcoming presence for those who entered St. Andrew's doors. The 27 members of the newly revived Greeters Guild met parishioners and newcomers at the front doors 105 times, offering a friendly welcome, encouraging the use of name tags, providing information and directions, and following up to ensure visitors were introduced to clergy. The narthex was brightened with new, colorful signage. We continued to capture attendance, and identify visitors for follow up, with the red folders in the pews. Technology was an important part of connecting with parishioners and visitors through Text-in-Church and our online greeters. The online connection is a valuable resource for parishioners unable to attend services in person and for many individuals from across the United States and around the world who worship with us and participate in prayers and podcasts. We know that many new members first experience St. Andrew's online.



The welcome experience is a key factor in the growth of St. Andrew's, as new members and visitors comment about the warmth of their first contact. New members continued to strengthen the parish and its various ministries with their perspectives, ideas, and talents. During 2024, we welcomed into membership 39 new households, including 12 children (from infants to high school students) and 46 adults. Five of the households had no children and represented the 20s to 30s age group. On average, St. Andrew's has welcomed one

to four nonmembers/first-time guests each Sunday. All guests who provide contact information receive follow-up. If the guests reply and meet with clergy, nearly 100 percent return and either attend regularly or become a member.

The Discovery classes continued to teach what it means to be an Episcopalian. The spring Discovery class had 10 participants, including one member who took the class as a refresher course; eight participants then joined St. Andrew's and one did not join but occasionally attends services. The fall Discovery class included nine participants. Of the nine, two were members who had not been confirmed but chose to be, five joined St. Andrew's, and two did not join but are active in the church. During 2024, we incorporated a spiritual-gifts assessment into the Discovery curriculum. One individual participated in Connection Partners, a program to pair new members with established parishioners to give them support and encouragement. Other new members found connections through involvement in various ministries, including Young Adults and the Garden Guild, as well as through worship attendance, Sunday School, Children's Ministry gatherings, engagement in commissions and small groups, and serving as prayer leaders for Pray at 8.

Our Birthday Brigade also continued to spread birthday cheer by writing cards and making phone calls to parishioners. This important contact lets parishioners know they are loved and appreciated and is an opportunity to learn more about members' needs.

### ENGAGING OUR MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY

HJ's continued hosting the Saturday-morning Farmer's Market at which St. Andrew's volunteers provide a warm welcome, information, and coffee to shoppers. Visitors value the presence of St. Andrew's, and our volunteers report the experience is an important part of their lives as they meet new friends and see the power of connection at work in the community.

The St. Andrew's Brew Crew again offered coffee and conversation to visitors at HJ's and the Saturday morning Farmer's Market. Nine regular baristas staffed HJ's Café from 8 to 11 a.m. Monday through Saturday, assisted by 11 alternates, five of whom were new in 2024. One of the newest baristas was head of the barista and bar service at the American Restaurant before it closed, and another is a matcha specialist. Seasonal coffee drinks were offered during the year. The Brew Crew helped the Outreach Commission raise funds for its ministries, netting \$50 for Andie's Pantry in March, \$100 for Gordon Parks in May, \$35 for the St. James Turkey Drive in August, and \$125 for the Pet Ministry in October. The Brew Crew also served coffee at special events, including hosting a Sunday Ministry Minute and coffee hour, an open house for candidates for bishop, the warm-up and cool-down for the St. Andrew's Sunday bagpipers, and a funeral reception.

The Gallery at HJ's provided parishioners and area residents the opportunity to view outstanding works by local artists. Opening receptions were staffed by St. Andrew's volunteers. Art sales helped to fund HJ's operations. The receptions attracted 178 guests, and 17 pieces of art sold for \$6,720, with a 30 percent commission for HJ's netting \$1,860. Plans are underway to expand the presence of art beyond the exhibits.

The Back Porch Alliance continued to meet weekly on the back porch of HJ's, with an average attendance of nine to 12 people. This fellowship provides a valuable opportunity to connect with neighbors and users of the Trolley Trail and is open to all.

The traditional lawn party at St. Andrew's for the Brookside St. Patrick's Day Parade resumed after being cancelled due to inclement weather in 2023. More than 10 dozen hot dogs, chips, and water were served to parade goers. A bounce house, face painting, and a collection for the Pet Ministry rounded out the festivities.

Approximately 200 people attended a combined Parish Picnic/Oktoberfest celebration, hosted in collaboration with the Hospitality and Stewardship commissions. The event featured an Outreach effort, music by a German band, and hot dogs, chips, and fruit, with an ice cream truck present for dessert.

# 39

NEW HOUSEHOLDS  
JOINING THE  
CHURCH, WITH 46  
ADULTS AND 12  
CHILDREN

# 200

PARISHIONERS  
ATTENDED THE  
PARISH PICNIC





## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COMMISSION

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Mtr. Jean Long,  
*Clergy Liaison*

Veronica Wiebold,  
*Staff Liaison*

Pam Olander,  
*Vestry Liaison*

Julia Jackson

Alisa Ramsey

Ashley Burgess

Cate Starke

Ashley Vozzella

Nancy and Jeremy Stewart

Betsy and Nathan Farris

# 37

BAPTISMS  
IN 2024

# 48

CHILDREN &  
YOUTH AT  
BOO BASH

St. Andrew's Children's Ministry had a successful year. With the help of Veronica Wiebold, Ashley Vozzella, and a new Sunday-morning assistant, we have moved from one multiage classroom to two age-appropriate classrooms. One class is geared for pre-K through first grade, and the other is for second-fourth graders. We are happy to report that we've seen an average attendance of 12 to 14 children per week.

Beginning in 2024, the Sunday school curriculum will connect with our Outreach programs. A guest speaker from the various Outreach partnerships will give a lesson about that program and teach the children how they can help.

We are so grateful for the wonderful parent volunteers that help keep our program growing. It is exciting to see all the new families at St. Andrew's, and we look forward to growing our children's program even more in 2025.



In addition to weekly Sunday school, Children's Ministry also hosts family gatherings and special events throughout the year. These include Vacation Bible School, the Back-to-School Bash, the Boo Bash, the Advent Wreath Party, and the annual Christmas Pageant.

- **Vacation Bible School:** VBS was held June 15-18 (a different week than usual because of scheduling conflicts). Our theme this year was Scuba, an Undersea Adventure. The church was wonderfully decorated for the underwater theme. Kudos to the youth and adult volunteers for transforming the church and working with the kids! We had about 25 children attend this year. This is a smaller number of participants than usual, probably due to the change of dates. Each year, we include an outreach component to our VBS. Thank you to Sarah Tepikian for helping coordinate these wonderful outreach opportunities. Thank you also to the clergy who give of their time to help during the week with Bible stories.
- **Back-to-School Bash:** On Aug. 11, the Children's Ministry Commission and Youth Commission hosted a Back-to-School Bash and All-Parish Picnic at HJ's with hot dogs, an ice cream truck, a bounce house, and games. We had 75 to 100 in attendance. It also included an outreach component; we asked families to bring school supplies, which were donated to JVS for refugee families. The table decorations were donated school supplies. Thank you to Susan Paynter for delivering our donations to JVS.
- **Boo Bash:** Boo Bash was held on Oct. 23 in the Undercroft with dinner, games, and a lot of great costumes. Trick-or-treating followed in the hallways upstairs, which were decorated thanks to our youth and volunteers. It was a spooky good time! We had about 40 attendees and eight youth volunteers. We look forward to this event growing in the next year.
- **Advent Wreath Party:** This year, instead of offering a Gingerbread House Party, we helped host an all-parish Advent Wreath Party. Parishioners were invited to assemble Advent wreaths following the 10:15 service Dec. 1, the first Sunday of Advent. Veronica and Ashley put together about 50 bags of craft supplies. Going forward, the commission is exploring how to make this a bigger event (treats, more instruction, and earlier advertising).
- **Christmas Pageant:** At the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service, the children participated in a narrated and musical Nativity pageant. More than 35 children participated. Thank you to the many parents who helped all the little ones get ready in costumes and helped them learn the true meaning of Christmas.

The Children's Ministry also welcomes new babies with welcome baskets. This year, we delivered 15 baskets. In 2024, 37 people were baptized. In 2025, the Children's Ministry Commission will be working to plan many events that can engage all our families at St. Andrew's. We look forward to more collaboration with Outreach partnerships and finding new ways to offer our programs to our families.



## YOUTH MINISTRY COMMISSION

In 2024, St. Andrew's Youth Ministry saw stability and growth under the leadership of Veronica Wiebold, our children's, youth, and young-adult ministry coordinator. The year was full of new vision, learning, and possibilities with Veronica's leadership. We continued to reach out to families to make sure they got to know Veronica, who has brought energy and a positive perspective on how to grow spiritually while having fun. 2024 also saw the reinstatement of youth Vestry members. Colbie Hyde serves in that role representing the Student Leadership Team, and Johnny Honnold represents the acolytes.

### 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

**Youth Group:** 2024 was an incredible year for Youth Group, filled with fun, fellowship, and spiritual growth. Our youth have embraced a renewed vision for many of our traditional activities. Highlights of the year included outings to bowling alleys, movie theaters, Worlds of Fun, and an unforgettable lock-in. Our annual ski retreat was another success, with 22 youth and eight adults participating in this much-anticipated event. Youth took part in many diocesan events this year, fostering stronger relationships with our neighboring Episcopal communities. This focus on building connections has been a significant area of growth for our youth ministry.

On average, Youth Group's special events attracted 10 to 20 young people, while weekly Youth Group attendance ranged from eight to 10 participants. Beyond these gatherings, our youth demonstrated their commitment to serving others by volunteering in various ways. Five youth assisted with the Haiti Benefit Dinner in April, many regularly helped Veronica with Sunday School classrooms and other church activities, and an impressive 30 youth volunteered during Vacation Bible School.

Veronica has also prioritized building personal connections with our youth. Through weekly meetups and attending their sporting events, she has deepened her understanding of their lives and strengthened relationships with their families. This personal engagement has been a key factor in fostering a strong sense of community within our Youth Group.

**Acolytes:** Ben Wake and Benton Glaze have been doing an amazing job as our acolyte directors. Their leadership has been a great shot in the arm to the program. Ben and Benton recruited former acolytes to serve as Sunday-morning adult acolyte volunteers, including Curt Bower, Mark Bower, and Emma Robertson. These young adults have done a great job continuing the strong tradition of the acolyte program, highlighting the importance of the role and helping youth understand our worship better. Fifty youth in fifth through 12<sup>th</sup> grades participate in the acolyte program, with an average attendance of 90 percent each month.

**Student Leadership Team:** The Student Leadership Team consists of students in 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades who help plan and execute weekly Youth Group meetings and other events. We have seven dedicated youth serving in this leadership role for 2024-2025: Katie Buck, Emma Murray, Evan Murray, Sophie Yanics, Colbie Hyde, Clair Kroh, and Charlotte Hamilton.

**Youth Confirmation:** 2024 was a solid year for our youth confirmation program. Six individuals completed their confirmation journeys this year, being confirmed by the bishop on Sept. 24, alongside adults who were confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church. We offered our second annual day-long youth confirmation retreat, which was attended by all six participants. This retreat provided an opportunity for deeper reflection and preparation for their faith commitment. Additionally, youth, sponsors and parents demonstrated their dedication to service by volunteering at the November Connecting Community event with St. James Church and attending a worship service at St. James in December. Through these meaningful experiences, our youth have grown in their faith and strengthened their connections to the church community.

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Ward Cook,  
*Chair and Vestry Liaison*

Veronica Wiebold,  
*Staff Liaison*

Mtr. Jean Long,  
*Clergy Liaison*

Cole Ehmke

Latoya Goree Smith

Keith Henson

Caleb Jackson

Jennifer Marien

Cherie Morey

# 50

YOUTH SERVING  
AS ACOLYTES

**Christmas Tree Lot:** Once again, the Christmas tree lot was a huge success. We sold more than 375 trees over a three-week period, with youth earning funds to be used toward St. Andrew's or diocesan youth activities. A big thank-you goes to the 35 volunteers who helped with the tree lot this year.

**BSA Troop 1016:** The troop starts 2025 with 48 active scouts and 35 leaders. The troop continues to go camping every month except July. In the past six months, Troop 16 scouts have earned more than 100 merit badges. Additionally, several Life Scouts are working toward the rank of Eagle. The troop's leadership is strong, in terms of both scouts and adult leaders.

**Cub Scout Pack 4016:** The Pack has 61 active Cub Scouts (kindergarten through 4<sup>th</sup> grade) and more than a dozen adult leader volunteers. The Pack crossed over nine Webelos to Troops 1016 and 7016 this past fall.

**BSA Troop 7016 for Girls:** The new Scouts BSA troop for girls, linked with Troop 1016, was chartered in late October 2024. The troop is off to a great start with seven youth members and seven adult leaders. The troop camps monthly, except for July, and has held three campouts since it was founded. Upcoming campouts through the remainder of this year will include the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, KS; a trip to Northwest Arkansas with a rock-climbing emphasis; and summer camp at the H. Roe Bartle Scout Reservation. The girls are progressing well on their journey toward the Eagle Scout rank, with several having already advanced two levels to the Tenderfoot rank.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

Christina Santiago,  
*Outgoing Vestry Liaison*

Mtr. Jean Long,  
*Clergy Liaison*

Veronica Wiebold,  
*Staff Liaison*

Tim Dodderidge  
*Incoming Vestry Liaison*

## YOUNG ADULT COMMISSION

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Young Adult Ministry strives to foster spiritual growth, build authentic relationships, and engage in meaningful outreach within our church and broader community. Our mission is to provide a space where young adults (ages 18-39) can explore their faith, connect with others, and live out Christ's call to serve.

### 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

**Spiritual Growth:** During Lent, a group of half a dozen participants enjoyed a book study reflecting on what the season could mean to each of them and how it could prepare them for Easter. In addition, weekly gatherings begun in the fall consistently attracted half a dozen participants discussing faith in modern times, spiritual practices, and the intersection of faith and justice.

**Fellowship:** Monthly brunches after the 10:15 a.m. service offered regular opportunities for social connections. In 2025, we will discuss occasionally offering evening gatherings to allow for more participation for those who aren't available after the 10:15 a.m. service.

**Outreach and Service:** Young adults had the opportunity to support Youth Ministry through working the Christmas tree lot during the holidays. There will be opportunities in 2025 for young adults to participate further in supervising and supporting Youth Group activities. The Young Adult Ministry Commission is considering substituting one weekly spiritual-growth gathering for a volunteer opportunity in 2025.

# ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMISSION

The Adult Christian Formation Commission was pleased to offer two special programs to the congregation this year. In July, the commission hosted a showing of *The Philadelphia 11*, a documentary about the first 11 woman ordained to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. Approximately 126 people from St. Andrew’s and surrounding parishes came together to enjoy the film and then listen to a panel discussion featuring local female clergy including Bishop Diane Jardine Bruce.

From January until June, members of our commission led participants through an 11-part program called **Sacred Ground**. This program, developed by the Episcopal Church, is a film and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups discuss race and racism in American history through the lens of faith. Susan Paynter and Melinda Smith ably facilitated the sessions.

Other opportunities for spiritual growth and enrichment this year included a five-week **Lenten small group study** facilitated by Cathy Moseley that focused on our baptismal promises. The **Wednesday-morning group**, led by Kathy West, met this summer on Zoom to discuss *From Widows to Warriors*, a study of the women in the Old Testament.

Adult Formation continued to provide programming for **Trailside Thursdays** at HJ’s, which is morphing into seasonally focused learning opportunities at a variety of times. Among the many programs offered to both parishioners and community members were the role of music in various religious traditions, a Lenten series focusing on the Eucharist, and, to end the year, a series on preparing for eternal life.

HJ’s was also the venue for two sessions of **Discovery**, a six-week exploration of our faith as we live it in the Episcopal Church and at St. Andrew’s in particular. Discovery is a good primer for newcomers to get to know the Episcopal way. It also offers long-time members a refresher course on our faith tradition.

Mtr. Rita Kendagor continued to provide opportunities to engage in contemplative spirituality throughout the year. **Sacred Spaces**, a centering-prayer meditation group, met Tuesday evenings at HJ’s. Beginning in Lent, Mtr. Rita offered the first of nine **Taizé worship** gatherings, a candlelit service of music, prayer, and contemplation. In November, 15 people attended Mtr. Rita’s Advent Meditations retreat.

The following ongoing groups continued throughout 2024:

- **Christian Journey** meets in-person and via Zoom between the two Sunday services. Dr. Vin Clark leads the discussion of various books dealing with many aspects of Christianity.
- **Café 9:15** also meets between the Sunday services. Susan Paynter leads discussions of the weekly lectionary readings both in-person and on Zoom.
- **Men’s Lectionary Group** meets each Thursday at HJ’s. Led by Ralph Munyan, the group gathers for fellowship and to discuss the week’s lectionary readings.
- **Brown Baggin’ and Books** is an online group led by long-distance parishioner Kathryn Holtze, gathering monthly to discuss books of many genres.
- **Pray at 8** is a daily online gathering of Morning Prayer and Compline led by clergy, staff, and parishioners.
- **Good Book Club** subscribers receive daily texts or emails featuring short passages from the Scriptures with a brief summary.

Finally, in December, we said farewell to long-time member and secretary *par excellence* Kathy West, who retired from the commission after many years of service. Many thanks, Kathy.

### Average participants per offering:

- |                                      |                            |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Sacred Ground – 6                  | • Sacred Spaces – 11       |
| • Wednesday Morning Lenten Group – 6 | • Taizé – 25               |
| • Trailside Thursdays – 17           | • Christian Journey – 11   |
| • Discovery – 10                     | • Café 9:15 – 10           |
| • Brown Baggin’ and Books – 4        | • Men’s Lectionary Group—7 |

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Sara Welch,  
*Convener and Vestry Liaison*
- Mtr. Jean Long,  
*Clergy Liaison*
- Kathy West,  
*Outgoing Secretary*
- Susan Paynter,  
*Incoming Secretary*
- Chris Atteberry
- Fr. John Coil
- Ann Holliday
- Carolyn Johnson
- DJ Matheny
- Ralph Munyan
- Melinda Smith

## COMMISSION MEMBERS AND MINISTRIES

Ann Goodrich,  
*Convener and  
Parish Pals Liaison*

Emily Bond,  
*Andrew's Companions*

Wendy Burgess,  
*Vestry Liason and  
Veterans Liaison*

Ann Renne,  
*Loaves & Fishes Liaison*

Meg Townsend,  
*Order of St. Luke Convener*

Mtr. Rita Kendagor,  
*Clergy Liason*

## PARISH CARE COMMISSION

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Parish Care offers care, support, and advocacy to the parishioners of St. Andrew's in several ways. We would love to have you join us on our journey by getting involved in any of these ministries.

### **Loaves & Fishes** – *Ann Renne, Coordinator*

For parishioners experiencing a short-term transition or crisis, Loaves & Fishes offers nourishing meals from parish members. The ministry takes into consideration allergies and dietary needs and coordinates meals to ensure recipients' refrigerators or freezers aren't overloaded. Thanks go to the many cooks who were called upon to send love to our parishioners by providing meals in their time of need.

### **OSL** – *Meg Townsend, Coordinator*

The Order of St. Luke the Physician (OSL) is an international, interdenominational organization designed to promote and practice healing through prayer. There are 13 active members in the St. Andrew's chapter, and we'd love to have more people involved. In addition to being physically present at Sunday services to pray with people after receiving Communion, OSL members respond to prayer requests on an ongoing and confidential basis.

### **Andrew's Companions** – *Emily Bond and Mtr. Rita Kendagor, Coordinators*

Andrew's Companions is a ministry of listening to and caring for others. Parishioners who have a gift for this work serve in conjunction with clergy to provide care, comfort, and sustainable support for members of our parish family experiencing the normal spiritual pains of life's journey. We are assigning new partners to Andrew's Companions who have lost their parishioner companions this year due to severe illness or death. We plan to provide Eucharistic-visitor training for those who would like to take Communion to their companions.

### **Parish Pals and Deliveries** – *Ann Goodrich, Coordinator*

Parish Pals are parishioners who make periodic phone calls to people who are not able to attend church regularly, so they will know they're still part of the St. Andrew's family. We coordinate with Andrew's Companions who visit home-bound parishioners. Additionally, we help deliver Christmas- and Easter-at-home bags, including service bulletins and consecrated wafers, to those who cannot attend church in person.

### **Veteran Care** – *Wendy Burgess, Coordinator*

Parish Care compiles the names of parishioners, family members, and friends who serve or have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, publishing names in the newsletter and bulletins for Memorial Day and Veterans' Day weekends. The list includes the service branch and dates served, as well as our gratitude for service to our country and a prayer for safekeeping. We also offer nametags with poppies attached on the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend. We are a resource for diocesan work to support veterans.

### **Funeral Receptions** – *Ann Renne and Ann Goodrich, Coordinators*

St. Andrew's offers coffee, tea, and cookies in the Jewell Room for families as they gather before a funeral, as well as providing receptions after the services. Cookies, tea, coffee, and water are provided for funeral guests, and families may bring additional refreshments. Many thanks to our funeral-reception volunteers: Ann Goodrich, Ann Renne, Blythe Launder, Blythe Robertson, and Liz Pendleton.

# OUTREACH COMMISSION

*“To seek and serve Christ in all people to reveal the kingdom of God” is the mission statement of St. Andrew’s Outreach Commission. It is grounded in Christ’s call that “whatever you do for one of the least of my brothers and sisters, you do for me” (Matthew 25:40).*

The Outreach Commission thanks each of our volunteers, contributors, and friends for allowing us to positively impact individuals and families in the Kansas City metro area and Maniche, Haiti. We contributed to the well-being of hundreds of people because of your dedication and support of all 16 of our ministries. St. Andrew’s allocated \$95,000 from the operating budget to Outreach partners in 2024, and other gifts from individuals and families totaled \$122,128 bringing our total giving to \$217,128 to support those we serve.

Our ministries held hundreds of unique volunteer opportunities. It is crucial to all of us that we work collaboratively with the organizations we partner with, and we are all learning more about the people we hope to serve and the best ways to serve them. This year, we gained a new partnership with JVS (Jewish Vocational Service), a subcontractor of the U.S government that works to support refugees and immigrants in their transition to life in the United States. We invite you to read the updated booklet we published this year to learn more about Outreach programs and how you can become involved.

### Benjamin Banneker Elementary School Partnerships

We had the continued joy of connecting with the students, families, and staff at Banneker Elementary this year. Located 3.7 miles east of St. Andrew’s, Benjamin Banneker Elementary School serves approximately 500 students and has 54 staff members. Banneker is a Title I school, and we work closely with school administrators to determine the best ways to support students and families. Representatives from each Banneker partnership attend a monthly “Principal’s Connect” meeting with school leadership and representatives from other community organizations to find collaborative ways to support the staff at Banneker.

### Andie’s Pantry

*Melissa Rock (msrock01@gmail.com) and Allison Fikejs (allisonfikejs@icloud.com), coordinators*

The intention of Andie’s Pantry is to connect deeply with families of Banneker students, centering relationships while shopping for groceries. In 2024, we took 43 families shopping four times, providing over \$30,100 in groceries to families. In September, we held a training for new and established volunteers to get acquainted with the program and with Banneker staff members.

### Banneker Families Emergency Fund

*Melissa Rock (msrock01@gmail.com), coordinator*

Working at the discretion of Banneker school leadership, we provide emergency funds for families needing assistance with food, utilities, and housing. In 2024, we provided families with \$6,096 in emergency assistance. This fund kept the utilities on or prevented eviction for approximately 25 families.

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Karen Lundgren, *Convener*
- Gina Heise, *Secretary*
- Jean Kiene, *Vestry Liaison*
- Ann Renne, *Comptroller*
- Fr. John Spicer, *Clergy Liaison*
- Sarah Tepikian, *Staff Liaison*
- Melissa Rock
- Allison Fikejs
- Dorothy Curry
- Donna Adam
- Joy Bower
- Carolyn Kroh
- Bruce Long
- Bill Hesler
- Janet Kelley
- Kate Banks
- Kathy Shaffer
- Cathy Moseley
- Patrick House
- Harold House

**\$47,128**  
FINANCIAL SUPPORT  
TO FAMILIES AND  
INDIVIDUALS IN  
KANSAS CITY



### **Banneker Edible Schoolyard Garden**

*Dorothy Curry (dorothycurry@kc.rr.com), coordinator*

The edible schoolyard garden teaches students the value of planting, tending, harvesting, preparing, and eating food from their backyards. We served approximately 150 students weekly this year with our Tuesday- and Thursday-morning sessions. This year, the new food services director, Ms. Johnson, has made an effort to use produce from the garden for student lunches. The students have remarked how delicious their harvest tasted!



### **Fabric of Life**

*Donna Adam (donnaadam618@gmail.com) and Joy Bower (bjbower@swbell.net), coordinators*

This group of five continued to make as many quilts as possible this year, working 300 hours diligently at home and during their group time at church on Wednesday afternoons. Recipients of the quilts this year included CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates), Journey to New Life, and many parishioners and their loved ones. These quilts brought comfort to children as they transitioned into residential care, supporting them from the initial ride in a police car to life in their new homes and eventual parent visits.

### **Free Store**

*Melissa Rock (msrock01@gmail.com), coordinator, in collaboration with representatives from St. James United Methodist Church, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral*

In January 2024, more than 100 volunteers from multiple churches braved the bitter cold to serve at the Free Store. Despite the temperature being -20, these volunteers managed a hot cocoa bar, served a warm meal from Nourish KC, and helped guests through multiple stations before sending them off with new coats, boots, and other winter attire. Several community organizations joined us to share information about their programs with guests. 249 people were able to get all-new winter gear, and 220 of them enjoyed a warm meal while they waited to shop.



### **Gordon Parks Elementary School**

*Karen Lundgren (kjlundgren0593@gmail.com), coordinator*

We continued our 25-year relationship with Gordon Parks, adding several new volunteers to our ranks. We supported project-based learning and the school's STEAM program. Several volunteers assisted students with their annual art projects, and we also supported a successful back-to-school night. We raised more than \$4,720 during another successful uniform drive, which provided each student with a T-shirt, sweatshirt, and a book about Gordon Parks, the man. Excess funds from the drive helped stock a student clothes closet with essentials.



### **Haiti Partnership**

*Kate Banks (Kate\_Banks@mac.com) and Kathy Shaffer (kathy.shaffer@me.com), coordinators*

Our goal remains to promote a spiritual partnership between St. Andrew's and St. Augustin's Church and financially support St. Augustin's School. We held our annual fundraisers: an Evening in the Caribbean to support the lunch program and Advent-card sales to support teacher salaries. The national schools did not open until early October because of social unrest in the capital, but St. Augustin's opened in early September. This allowed some time for review and, just as important, allowed the lunch program to begin. Despite the unrest in Haiti, we maintain regular communication with our partner priest and receive many updates about the students. St. Augustin's School has grown quite a bit this year, with 421 students now in grades K-11. This is the first year the school has offered 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Students continue to do well academically and have enjoyed competing with other local schools in soccer for the first time this year.

### **Jewish Vocational Service (JVS), a new Outreach partnership in 2024**

*Gina Heise (ggheise@gmail.com), coordinator*

JVS was established in 1949 to help Holocaust survivors, refugees, and veterans returning from World War II, enabling them to begin new lives in our community. Today, it welcomes people from across the globe fleeing war and persecution in search of a better life. JVS is a U.S. Government subcontractor for refugee services. It empowers people to contribute to their community and encourages accessibility and inclusivity. Its services help refugees, immigrants, and their families become thriving members of the greater Kansas City area. JVS believes all people have intrinsic worth and dignity, and that all people can flourish with support services. Since August, St. Andrew's members supported a clothing drive, sorted donations at the JVS clothing closet, volunteered for home set-up shifts, and supported JVS' Global Table to Go and Annual Meeting events.



### **Kansas City Community Gardens**

*Carolyn Kroh (cskroh@aol.com) and Jean Kiene (jtk810@aol.com), coordinators*

Kansas City Community Gardens continued to inspire and empower low-income households and school and community groups to grow vegetables and fruit this year. KCCG has 230 school gardens and nine rental-plot gardens, and it hosts 40 free educational workshops for gardeners each year. In addition, the garden staff invite Title I schools and groups serving low-income students to special events, some of which our students from Gordon Parks enjoyed this year. We held our annual seed-packaging volunteer day in February, and we had a great turnout, packaging seeds for

several hundred people to use in their gardens. St. Andrew's funding supported purchasing wholesale seeds for packaging. We invited parishioners to the gardens' Fall Family Festival in September.

### **NourishKC**

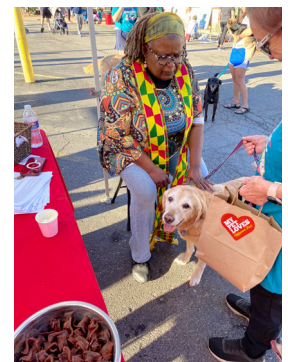
*Bill Hesler (bill@heslerkc.org) and Bruce Long (blong2001@kc.rr.com), coordinators*

We continued to support NourishKC in its mission to prepare nutritious meals, rescue fresh local food, and serve as a community partner to address hunger's core causes. Volunteers from St. Andrew's served 4,200 meals at NourishKC this year. This year, NourishKC joined forces with The Prospect KC, working collaboratively to address the goal of job creation, social enterprise, and workforce development.

### **Pet Ministry**

*Cathy Moseley (petministry7@gmail.com), coordinator*

Recognizing and honoring the importance of pets in people's lives, our Pet Ministry lifts up the poor, the insecure, and the aged. We contributed more than \$2,000 to several organizations that contribute to the health and well-being of pets in our community and support the poor through providing free pet food; those organizations included Chain of Hope, the Rescue Project, Heart of America Humane Society, and St. Paul's Food Pantry. Pet Ministry volunteers served 4,767 people and their pets this year. Pet Ministry connects with various ministries both within St. Andrew's and in the community at large, including the annual Pet Blessing and Brookside's Strutt with Your Mutt.



### **Rose Brooks**

*Cathy Moseley (7rosebrooks@gmail.com), coordinator*

Our continued goal has been to help support moms and their children who have experienced domestic violence by showing them love, acceptance, and joy. This partnership is a collaborative effort between the Outreach Commission and Trinity Guild. Volunteers served 289 hours supporting the moms and children at Rose Brooks. Each month, volunteers work to organize Rosie's Closet and help moms find clothing and accessories for job interviews and meetings. Volunteers also worked to create seasonal activity bags for the children at Halloween, Christmas, and during the summer.

### **Sr. Berta's Friendship Circles**

*Dorothy Curry (dorothycurry@kc.rr.com) and Karen Lundgren (kjlundgren0593@gmail.com), coordinators*

This program demonstrates the good that can happen when two or three middle-income people intentionally build a friendship with someone from across the societal barrier of generational poverty, continuing the legacy of Sr. Berta Sailer. We continued to support the emergency fund, trusting the guidance of Operation Breakthrough staff in its distribution. Forty parishioners participated in "The City You Never See," a bus tour to parts of the urban core that are often overlooked.

### **St. James Church Partnership**

*Janet Kelley (jkkell638@gmail.com), coordinator*

This was the third year of our partnership with St. James, and we continue to help meet the needs of our community together. Our volunteers served 378 hours this year at St. James' food pantry, distributions of adult underwear and hygiene kits, and special events. We supported a holiday meal for the community in November and assisted with several Connecting Community events.



### **St. Paul's Pantry**

*Bill Hesler (bill@heslerkc.org) and Bruce Long (blong2001@kc.rr.com), coordinators*

We continue to work with St. Paul's Pantry to enhance their client's quality of life by distributing food and personal-care items to promote each person's dignity and value. Each month, our 19 volunteers prepare and provide bags of groceries to 200 people. These bags include essential shelf-stable grocery products, frozen meats, fresh produce, and toiletries.

### **Welcome House**

*Patrick House (phouse81@gmail.com) and Harold House (hehouse1@gmail.com), coordinators*

We continued our long-standing partnership with Welcome House by supporting the Jump Start program, which assists new residents at the beginning of their stay with rent, meals, and other costs associated with staying in this sober-living facility. The program gives the men who most need it a grace period before they start to look for employment. This contribution from our budget benefited at least 300 residents. A church-wide toiletry drive filled 75 bags of shampoo, razors, shaving cream, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, and toothbrushes.

# 279

UNIQUE  
OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR VOLUNTEER  
IMPACT





3,906

VOLUNTEER HOURS  
FROM ST. ANDREW'S  
PARISHIONERS IN 2024

12,512

INDIVIDUALS  
SERVED IN THE  
KANSAS CITY AREA

# FACILITIES COMMISSION

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## COMMISSION MEMBERS

Steve Miller, *Vestry Liaison*  
Zach Beall, *Staff Liaison*

Scott Kirmer  
Kate Banks

Bert Darling  
Melissa Rock

George Kroh  
Fred Gambino

The Facilities Commission has continued with preventive-maintenance projects including improvements to the roof and HVAC systems at both HJ's and the church building. The highlight of these efforts was the installation of a new boiler in the church for more efficient and reliable heat, made possible through a generous gift from parishioner Frank Thompson. Other significant improvements in 2024 included:

- Jewell Room Floor and Tapestries: We replaced bowed boards, refinished the entire floor, and restored two antique tapestries. This work was made possible through a generous gift in honor of parishioners David and Peggy West.
- Foundation Drainage: We improved drainage at exterior doors and basement walls to capture and redirect water, which has been an issue in our lower level for decades.
- Tuckpointing: We made several repairs to the church's stone exterior to protect our building for the future.
- Exterior Lighting: We replaced exterior lights to improve safety and visibility, as well as to provide greater energy efficiency.

These, and many other, improvements were made possible through the very generous support of our parish community and will make a lasting impact on the care of our facilities.

Looking ahead to 2025, we will continue to address building issues as they arise to ensure that St. Andrew's will remain a sacred and welcoming place for all. We will also begin a process of assessing our property's condition to guide planning for preventive maintenance in the years to come. Future projects on the immediate horizon include replacing two HVAC units on the church rooftop, replacing the church's electrical panel, and tuckpointing on the church's south side. These efforts are being funded through generous year-end Christmas gifts from parishioners. Looking ahead, other projects will include a new roof over the Jewell Room, as well as new gutters and downspouts.



# FINANCE COMMISSION

Financial results for St. Andrew’s in 2024 were very solid.

Operating revenue, including all pledge-related activity, totaled nearly \$2.2 million. Other revenue, including \$100,000 from the St. Andrew’s Endowment Fund, totaled just over \$200,000. Total revenue of about \$2.4 million was \$29,000, or 1 percent, ahead of our budget.

Total operating expenses of about \$2.3 million were \$20,000 lower than our budget. Slightly more than half of operating expenses, about \$1.3 million, are tied to St. Andrew’s staff salaries, insurance, and benefits. Roughly \$600,000 of operating expense is associated with the operations of the church building, the parish office, and HJ’s. Our diocesan support in 2023 totaled \$282,000. The various commissions spent roughly \$100,000 in ministry. Lastly, Outreach giving from the operating budget totaled \$95,000, which was roughly 5 percent of pledge and prepaid-pledge income.

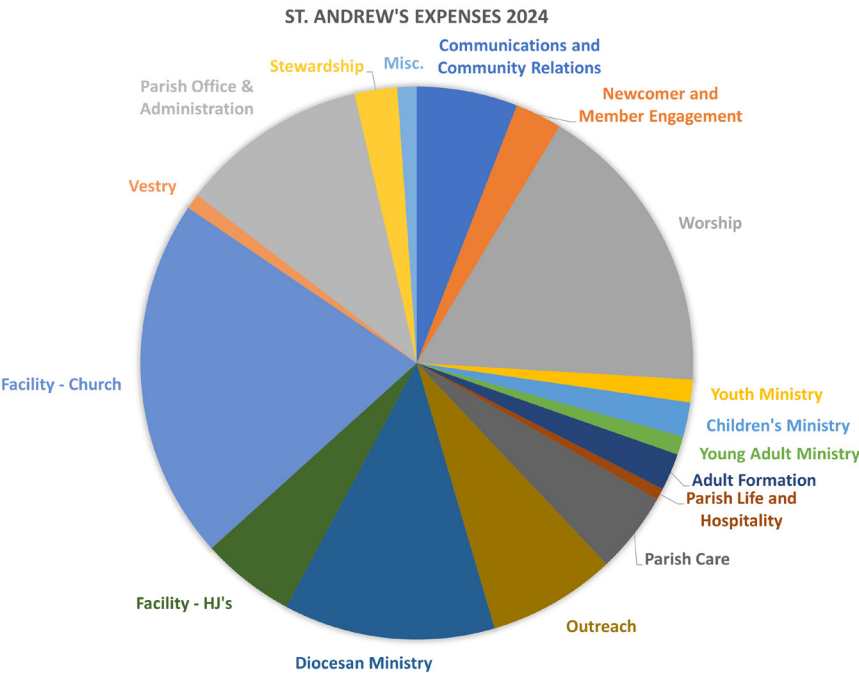
As a result of the above, St. Andrew’s was able to record an operating profit of \$69,000, slightly ahead of our budget. In summary: Reflecting the generosity of the parish and good financial controls, we had a very strong financial year. From a liquidity perspective, our operating account and various restricted funds totaled slightly more than \$1.0 million at year end. The St. Andrew’s endowment (\$3.3 million) and other related investment funds (about \$700,000) total nearly \$4.0 million at year end.

Shifting to the 2025 budget, as noted above, we begin the year on a very solid financial foundation. The budget calls for total revenue of \$2.4 million, slightly up from the prior year. Total expenses of just under \$2.4 million projects a modest operating profit of around \$8,000. Expenses reflect cost-of-living increases for our staff, a \$20,000 increase in our assessment from the Diocese of West Missouri, and Outreach giving of \$103,000 from the operating budget, or 5.7 percent of pledge and prepaid-pledge income.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
Bill Aliber, Treasurer

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

- Bill Aliber, Treasurer
- Jason Angilan, Vestry Liaison
- Paul Wurth, Senior Warden
- Nina Edwards, Staff Liaison
- Zach Beall, Staff Liaison
- Fr. John Spicer, Clergy Liaison
- Tommy Aliber
- Tim Cranor
- Ben Gloe
- Brian Gloe
- Jean Kiene
- Kevin Rooney
- Steve Sutton



1%  
REVENUE AHEAD  
OF BUDGET

## ENDOWMENT COMMISSION

### COMMISSION MEMBERS

Steven B. Sutton,  
*Chair*

Guy Creveling,  
*Vestry Liaison*

Fr. John Spicer,  
*Clergy Liaison*

Ralph Goodrich

Charles D. Horner

Mary Kay Horner

Mtr. Anne Hutcherson

Janet Kelley

Jean Kiene

Ann Sanders Woodyard

The St. Andrew's Endowment Fund exists for two purposes: First, it empowers St. Andrew's ministries beyond what would be possible relying solely on funding from the annual pledge campaign. Second, annual distributions from the Endowment Fund to St. Andrew's provide underwriting for future ministries through planned (testamentary) gifts and lifetime gifts to the Endowment Fund intended to make a significant difference in the future.

The fund is managed as a "true endowment," i.e., the principal is not to be invaded. Three percent to 5 percent of the preceding 12 annual quarterly averages of the income and appreciation in the market value of the fund may be distributed each year to St. Andrew's. Distributions from the Endowment Fund may only be used for capital improvements, outreach and evangelistic ministries, seed money for new ministries and special one-time projects, clergy and staff development, and donor-designated purposes that are approved by the Vestry.

The sole exception to the above is the Ministry Growth Fund, a subfund in the Endowment Fund that, by its express terms, allows upon the Vestry's approval a distribution of up to 20 percent of that fund once per year to St. Andrew's. The subfund's purposes are to assist in underwriting the expenses of hiring, retaining, or expanding the clergy and staff of St. Andrew's and to assist in underwriting the expenses of providing continuing education for members of the congregation's clergy and staff.

The assets of the Endowment Fund are managed and invested for St. Andrew's by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. As of November 30, 2024, the market value of the assets of the Endowment Fund was \$3,343,109, a 42 percent increase since last year through donations and investment returns.

### IMPACT OF DISTRIBUTIONS

In December 2024, the Endowment Fund distributed \$100,000 to St. Andrew's upon the Endowment Commission's unanimous vote using the 5 percent standard above. With the Vestry's approval, in December 2024, an additional \$50,000 was withdrawn from the Ministry Growth Fund (8 percent of that subfund's value) to support the outreach coordinator's salary. Fr. John Spicer describes the 2024 impact of these distributions as follows:

The Endowment Fund continues to enable St. Andrew's to offer ministries, serve "the least" of Jesus' family members, and steward our physical resources beyond what we could accomplish through pledges and other member gifts. In keeping with our Endowment Fund policies, the 2024 distributions empowered work in the following areas:

- **Outreach ministry:** The \$50,000 from the Ministry Growth Fund helped support our outreach coordinator position. Sarah Tepikian Luna's responsibilities include helping parishioner leaders plan and execute service projects with our Outreach partners, coordinating annual ministry planning and impact review, and ensuring our Outreach partnerships function within the commission's policies and procedures. Having a staff coordinator allows us to support Outreach ministry administratively in a way that matches the place of Outreach in St. Andrew's heart.
- **Connecting with neighbors and new members:** \$28,607 of the \$100,000 endowment distribution funded Brookside connection ministries, HJ's hospitality, new-member engagement, artist receptions at HJ's, the baptism instruction class, Vacation Bible School, and family-fun events.
- **Marketing communications:** \$20,384 of the \$100,000 endowment distribution funded print and digital advertising.
- **Evangelization through worship:** \$28,366 of the \$100,000 endowment distribution funded our livestreaming (subscriptions, software, and hardware) and music for festival worship such as Christmas Eve and Easter.

- **Clergy and staff development:** \$15,031 of the \$100,000 endowment distribution funded clergy professional development, as well as Dr. Tom Vozzella's sabbatical expenses.
- **Capital improvements:** \$7,612 of the \$100,000 endowment distribution funded capital projects on the church building.

## ENDOWMENT COMMISSION AND LEGACY SOCIETY

The responsibilities of the Endowment Commission are to encourage parishioners to make planned testamentary and lifetime gifts to the Endowment Fund, to oversee the management and development of the Endowment Fund, and to encourage parishioners to join the St. Andrew's Legacy Society.

In May 2017, the Vestry authorized the formation of the St. Andrew's Legacy Society. The role of the Legacy Society is to recognize those who have either made provisions in their estate plans for a "planned gift" or have made a lifetime gift to the Endowment Fund. However, the more significant purposes of the Legacy Society are to enable parishioners to show their gratitude for God's blessings, to witness to the value of St. Andrew's in their lives, and to assist in securing the ministries of our Church for generations to come.

The Endowment Commission is gratified that **since May 2017, 94 parishioner households have enrolled in the Legacy Society, with four new households joining since last year.** During 2024, the Endowment Commission refined its electronic process for joining the Legacy Society. The one-page enrollment form can be submitted with only a few clicks of a mouse. The commission also held a social at HJ's that 42 Legacy Society members attended. Then the commission offered two estate-planning seminars at HJ's that included Legacy Society members.

The Endowment Commission is pursuing the long-term goal of growing the principal value of the Endowment Fund to at least \$5 million. An Endowment Fund of \$5 million could make annual distributions to St. Andrew's to assist in underwriting our ministries in amounts ranging from \$200,000 to \$250,000.

## WE HONOR AND GIVE THANKS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ST. ANDREW'S LEGACY SOCIETY

Donna Adam  
Cyndee Anderson  
Greg & Nancy Bentz  
Corny Boersma  
The Ven. Bruce & Joy Bower  
Dorothy Bowlus  
Mary Brink\*  
Mark Burroughs  
Sally Cashion  
Vin & Margaret Clark  
Allen Colfry III  
Beth Copeland  
The Rev. Bill & Rebecca Crain  
Glenn & Janet Crawford  
Elaine Crider  
Bill\* & Dorothy Curry  
Sallie Dickinson  
Jay & Lillian Edwards  
Mike & Janie Fee  
Allison Fikejs & Lee Pippens  
Gordon & Jackie Gilpin  
Larry & Joanna Glaze  
Brian & Betsy Gloe  
Ralph & Ann Goodrich  
Margaret Heckendorn\*  
Gus & Gina Heise

John & Sandy Heny  
Marilyn Schloerb Hock  
Betty Holliday\*  
Brad & Colleen Honnold  
Charles & Mary Kay Horner  
Julia Horner  
Porter Hovey & Rita Armstrong  
Graham & Bebe Hunt  
The Revs. Robert & Anne Hutcherson  
Chris & Cecelia Johnson  
Patti Schloerb Johnson  
Bernie Jones\*  
Janet Kelley  
Jean Kiene  
Bill & Susan\* Kircher  
Harriet Kokjer\*  
Tom & Lora Kokjer  
The Rev. Jerry & Brenda Kolb  
Peggy Lane\*  
Asher\* & Audrey Langworthy  
Jim & Laura Lloyd  
Bruce & Priscilla Long  
Paul & the Very Rev. Jean Long  
Mary-Lucille Mantz  
Lynnly Marcotte  
Joanna Martin

Kent Maughan  
Bob & Dahlgren\* McElwain  
Droste & Barbara Milledge, Sr.  
Jerry & Brigitte Miller  
The Rev. Jim\* & Pat Moore  
Ralph & Valerie Munyan  
Norm\* & Liz Olson  
Edie Peterson  
Bud\* & Carol Price  
Caroline Reynolds  
Ryan Reynolds  
Stephen & Melissa Rock  
Richard & Beverly Rush  
John Russell  
Bill & Jan\* Saylor  
Paul\* & Louise\* Schloerb  
John\* & Helen Shackelford  
Chris & Kristi Shaffer  
Stan & Kathy Shaffer  
Wil & Nancy Siemens  
Bob\* & Connie\* Smart  
Susan Spencer  
The Rev. John & Ann Spicer  
Ben & Deborah Stark  
Bob\* & Sally\* Steinbach  
Dick\* & Lanna\* Strong

Rick & Sally Stuart  
Steve Sutton  
Chuck Sweeney\*  
Frank Thompson  
Carol Tinsman  
Karen Von Der Bruegge  
John & Debby Walker  
Walt Walton Jr.\*  
David\* & Peggy West  
Bob & Sally West  
Susan Williams\*  
Rhea Winslow  
Bill\* & Libby Worley  
Ralph Wright  
Sandy Wurth  
Hugh\* & Eulalie\* Zimmer

\* Deceased

## COMMISSION MEMBERS

Tim Cranor,  
*Vestry Liaison and Chair*

Fr. John Spicer,  
*Clergy Liaison*

Mtr. Jean Long,  
*Clergy Liaison*

Bill Aliber

Matt Bleakley

Scott Burditt

Guy Creveling

Nina Edwards

Keith Henson

Deacon Adam James

Erin Lemanski

Melissa Rock

Mary Sanders

Paul Wurth

# \$114,766

INCREASE IN  
PLEDGED GIVING  
FOR 2025

# 37

NEW PLEDGES

## STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION

The 2024 Stewardship Season focused on the theme “Love in Action.” The season kicked off Sunday, Sept. 29, with a picnic at HJ’s following the 10:15 a.m. service. The picnic was well attended and included great food, an ice cream truck, and games. The picnic was made possible by the hard work of many St. Andrew’s parishioners, including members of the Stewardship, Hospitality, Community Engagement, and Outreach commissions.

The 2024 pledge campaign was built upon a 10-10-10 target—a 10 percent increase in pledging units and a 10 percent increase in pledged giving, which would enable a 10 percent increase in Outreach funding over 2024.

Following up on last year’s campaign, we offered interviews with several St. Andrew’s parishioners during Sunday services, on podcasts, and in articles. Sharing their stories of love in action were Joy Bower, Craig Lundgren, Linda Brand, Johnny Honnold, Paul Johnson, Grace Coughlin, and Ann Rainey. Parishioner and TV journalist Christina Santiago led the interviews.

Included in this year’s campaign for the first time was the St. Andrew’s Circles initiative, organizing parishioners into small “circles” that gathered during the fall in homes, restaurants, coffee shops, etc. The goal of the Circles was to get to know each other better and share interests, goals, stories, and spiritual journeys. Many of the Circles decided to continue to meet going forward.

The Stewardship Season also included a devotional booklet written by the clergy sharing 50 days of Bible readings and reflections about the spiritual practices of the Way of Love: rest, go, pray, worship, learn, bless, and turn. The Stewardship Season culminated with the blessing of pledges on St. Andrew’s Sunday, Nov. 24.

Although we fell short of our 10 percent goals, we are deeply grateful to God and to our parishioners for the following blessed results. As of Jan. 10, 2025, and compared with results as of Jan. 10, 2024:

- Pledging units increased by 14 households for a total of 354 (a 4 percent increase).
- Pledged giving grew by \$114,766 (6.4 percent) for a total of \$1,914,629 for 2025.
- 167 households increased their pledges over 2024 levels, 37 more increases than at this time last year.
- 27 households decreased their pledges, five fewer than at this time last year.
- 37 households made new pledges, seven fewer than at this time last year.

Pledges are gratefully welcomed at any time across the year!



# THANK YOU TO OUR FINANCIAL PLEDGERS FOR 2025

*Some pledgers wish to remain anonymous. Therefore, this thank-you does not name those who pledge anonymously, but they certainly have our gratitude!*

Anonymous (35)  
Dan & Diana Abitz  
Donna Adam  
Jinny & Bill Alexander  
Bill & Kim Aliber  
Tommy & Ally Aliber  
Betsy Allen  
Cyndee Anderson  
Bruce & Nancy Anderson  
Linda Anderson-Petty  
Tony & Terre Andresen  
Jason & Courtney Angilan  
Jim & Susan Archer  
Lillard & DeVette Ashley  
Jan Ashmore  
Chris & Diana Atteberry  
Sydney Backstrom  
Dave & Kate Banks  
Vicki Barham  
Bruce & Gerry Barker  
Brandon & Annaria Barnds  
Mary Jane Barnes  
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Chris Beal & Tim Van Zandt  
Charley & Jennifer Benson  
Peter Benson  
Greg & Nancy Bentz  
Jeffrey & Nicole Bentz  
John Black & Darcy Howe  
Mike Bland & Karen Nelson-Bland  
Matt Bleakley  
Cindy Bleck  
Sandy Bleck-Weaver  
Sharyn & Erwin Blond  
Corny Boersma  
Clay & Emily Bond  
Bruce & Joy Bower  
Curt & Alexandra Bower  
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Shawna & Dave Brandli  
Glenn & Susan Bray, Jr.  
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Neil Douthat  
Deb & Mollie Drew-Nidiffer  
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Jay & Lillian Edwards  
Chris & Christine Egan  
Brian & Susie Egbert  
Cole & Mariah Ehmke  
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Brandon & Ashley Gall  
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George & Frances Gerritz  
George & Julie Gilchrist  
Gordon & Jackie Gilpin  
Larry & Joanna Glaze  
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Ben & Logan Gloe  
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Ralph & Ann Goodrich  
Emilio Granja & Doris McGhie  
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Nancy Graves  
Sarah Gregory  
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Bob Hartsook  
Chuck & Barbara Haviland  
Tucky Hazen  
Ron & Joann Heap  
Tom & Mary Heausler  
Bob & Beverly Hechler  
Spence & Susie Heddens, III  
Gus & Gina Heise  
Keith & Stephanie Henson  
John & Sandy Henry  
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Wendy Hintz  
Irv & Ellen Hockaday, Jr.  
Blake & Megan Hodges  
Veda Hoffhaus  
John & Cecile Holliday  
Chris & Ann Holliday  
Kenneth & Nancy Holm  
Brad & Colleen Honnold  
Charlie & Mary Kay Horner  
Bruce & Deb Hoskins



## THANK YOU TO OUR FINANCIAL PLEDGERS FOR 2025

Porter Hovey & Rita Armstrong  
David Hunt  
Graham Hunt  
Robert & Anne Hutcherson  
Ann Hyde  
Blair & Michael Hyde  
Jason & Molli Ittel  
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Craig & Karen Lundgren  
John & Daisy MacDonald  
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Mary-Lucille Mantz  
Lynnly Marcotte  
Jenny Marien  
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Howard Martin  
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Kent Maughan  
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Ralph & Valerie Munyan  
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John Norton  
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Morgan & Pam Olander  
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Arthur & Nancy Parks  
Ron & Lynda Partee  
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Ritchie Patterson  
Mark Patterson  
Susan Paynter

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Edie Peterson  
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Peggy West  
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Rhea Winslow  
Van Wolbach  
Tom Woodbury  
Phil & Kathy Woodward  
Joe & Ann Woodyard  
Tom & JoLetta Woolwine  
Dennis & Pat Wright  
Ralph Wright  
Sandy Wurth  
Paul & Geri Wurth  
Mary Yanics  
Donna Young

## THANK YOU TO OUR CHRISTMAS-APPEAL GIVERS

Cyndee Anderson  
Randy & Julie Bredar  
Richard Brown  
Warren & Sherri Cooper  
Steve & Cathy Corey  
Bill & Rebecca Crain  
Tim & Ann Cranor  
Mike & Janie Fee  
Spence & Susie Heddens, III  
Chris & Ann Holliday

Anne Hutcherson  
PJ & Julie Johnson, Jr.  
Lois Lacy  
Rusty & Paula Leffel  
Jerry & Brigitte Miller, Jr.  
Ed & Chris Null  
Randolph & Marty Oliver  
Liz Olson  
Jim & Barbara Pace  
Tom Platt

Charlie & Susan Porter  
Wood & Kathleen Ramsey  
Richard & Beverly Rush  
Jewel Scott  
Paul & Geri Wurth  
Silvy Zamora

## TRINITY GUILD

### GUILD LEADERS

Linny Carrier,  
*President*

Lillian Edwards  
and June Jordan,  
*Vice Presidents*

Betsy Allen,  
*Recording Secretary*

Cindy Roth,  
*Corresponding Secretary*

Sharon Franke,  
*Treasurer*

Nancy Watson,  
*Ex-Officio*

Liz Olson,  
*Publicity*

Meg Townsend,  
*Reservations/  
Communications*

Marty Oliver,  
*Devotions*

Ann Cranor,  
*Hospitality*

Cathy Moseley,  
*Outreach*

Susan Paynter,  
*United Thank Offering*



The Trinity Guild is a loving group of the women of St. Andrew's, meeting in friendship and supporting each other as well as the community. Trinity Guild has a long history at St. Andrew's. Founded in 1957, it currently has about 70 women on its roster. Women of all ages are welcome. We make new friends while learning from interesting speakers, supporting community needs, and enjoying a delicious lunch. Trinity Guild meets on the fourth Thursday of the month in the Jewell Room.

In 2024, we hosted speakers including the Peace and Justice Committee for the Diocese of West Missouri and Rachael Morlok from Bloom International, a local and international outreach program for women. In addition, Lou Fleshier spoke about walking the Camino Trail; Dr. Tom Vozzella gave an inspiring organ presentation; Deacon Beck Schubert spoke about her book on hospice ministry; and Fr. John Spicer spoke about the diocese's search for a new bishop.

Over the years, Trinity has raised money for outreach programs through various means. This year, we are collecting members' unused pieces of silver and gold jewelry to redeem them for cash. Another creative fundraiser was Trinity's first Low-Country Boil, organized by Jinny Alexander and Joey Straube.

Trinity's fundraising supports various outreach ministries. In 2024, we donated \$1,000 to Pawsperity, \$600 to Haskell Indian Nations University, \$600 to Gordon Parks Elementary School, \$600 to Benjamin Banneker Elementary School, \$756 to Welcome House, and \$350 to Andie's Pantry. Many members contributed individually to the United Thank Offering and to the National Cathedral in Washington, DC.

Trinity Guild members also support outreach programs by volunteering with Rosie's Closet, Mission Chateau Memory Care, Fabric of Life, Benjamin Banneker Elementary School's edible garden, Gordon Parks Elementary School, and St. James United Methodist Church.

We welcome all St. Andrew's women (and their friends and guests) to attend a Trinity Guild lunch to learn more about us.



## MINISTRIES OF THE DIOCESE OF WEST MISSOURI

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Being an Episcopal parish means being part of our diocese and the Episcopal Church. Unlike denominations in which each congregation functions separately, Episcopal congregations are linked under the leadership and authority of diocesan bishops, and they work toward God's mission together. So, the Episcopal Church is really one church comprised of thousands of congregations seeking "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ" (*Book of Common Prayer*, 855).



In 2024, our diocese did the hard and holy work of searching for and electing our ninth bishop. We created a profile, evaluated applicants, discerned four finalists, and in November elected the Rev. Amy Dafler Meaux on one ballot. That election symbolized the sense of collaboration and relatively easy consensus that marked the entire search process, being on the same page and aligned with the Holy Spirit. Bishop-Elect Amy will begin serving among us in February, getting ready for her consecration on May 3, 2025 (God willing), at Grace & Holy Trinity Cathedral in Kansas City.

The Rt. Rev. Diane Jardine Bruce, our bishop provisional, will be with the diocese through the consecration in May. She has done an outstanding job helping the diocesan family identify and resolve conflict, develop a zero-based budget for the first time in decades, and discern a clear sense of mission: "As the Body of Christ, we seek, serve, and save the lost by proclaiming the Good News, forming disciples, serving others, and striving for justice."

Our diocesan ministries involve work that the 47 congregations can't do on their own, such as providing clergy leadership and worship in small and rural congregations; offering Hispanic ministry in southwest Missouri; providing resources for children's, youth, and adult learning; supporting feeding ministries and other outreach work; and supporting Bishop Kemper School for Ministry, which trains clergy typically for bivocational service (a priest or deacon serving a congregation part-time while remaining in secular work). BKSMM graduates include current and former members of our parish family – the Ven. Bruce Bower, the Rev. Dr. Sean Kim, the Rev. Michael Shaffer, the Rev. Rita Kendagor, the Rev. Jean Long, the Rev. Adam James, and the Rev. Jen (Sackhoff) Blevins.

St. Andrew's clergy, staff, and parishioners are involved in several diocesan ministries and leadership bodies. Fr. John Spicer is a member of the Diocesan Council (the diocesan "Vestry") and Finance Committee. Mtr. Jean Long is the dean of the Northwest-Metro Deanery and serves on the Finance Committee, the Diocesan Council, the Worship Commission, the Episcopal Ministry Support Team, and the Communications Commission. Mtr. Rita Kendagor is the assistant chairperson of the Commission on Ministry and serves on the Diversity and Reconciliation Commission. Deacon Adam James is the diocesan coordinator for Episcopal Relief and Development and the spiritual director of the Episcopal Veterans Fellowship of West Missouri, as well as serving on the Commission on Ministry and the Peace and Justice Committee. Mtr. Anne Hutcherson serves on the Spiritual Wellness Professional Advisory Group at St. Luke's Hospital, and she is on the Bishop Spencer Place Board of Directors, along with parishioner Karen Calvin. Archdeacon Bruce Bower convenes the diocese's Community of Deacons, chairs the International Outreach Grant Committee, and serves on the Commission on Ministry, the Worship Commission, the Board of Examining Chaplains, and the Episcopal Ministry Support Team. Tom Kokjer is treasurer of the diocese. Ann Rainey chairs the Commission on Ministry and helps facilitate the Beginning Well program for clergy newly ordained and new to the diocese. Rick Norden is the chair of the St. Luke's Health System Board and serves on the BJC Board (following the integration of St. Luke's and BJC Health System in St. Louis). Greg Bentz chairs the BJC Board, serves on the St. Luke's Health System Board, and serves as the church attorney for the diocesan canonical discipline process. Bill Aliber, David Hall, Blake Hodges, and Amy McAnarney are members of the St. Luke's Plaza Hospital Board of Directors. David Hunt serves on the St. Luke's Hospital Foundation Board.

For 2025, St. Andrew's again will provide the largest amount of congregational support for diocesan ministries: \$299,536 funding 14 percent of the total diocesan budget (\$2,131,340) and 22 percent of assessments from diocesan congregations (\$1,359,687). We receive no funding from the diocese; the support flows the other direction.

Because we are blessed as a resource-rich congregation, we will always shoulder a comparatively large share of the cost of diocesan ministries. Such is the polity of the Episcopal Church and the heart of Jesus. As Scripture tells us, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 2:35) as we "bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2).

**FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE  
ABIDE, THESE THREE. BUT THE  
GREATEST OF THESE IS  
LOVE.**

**1 CORINTHIANS 13:13**



**St. Andrew's**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6401 Wornall Terrace · Kansas City, MO 64113  
816-523-1602 · [standrewkc.org](http://standrewkc.org)