



### Tradition is the Light

“These people honour me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’  
You abandon the commandment of God and hold  
to human tradition.”  
-Mark 7:7-8



Years ago, I wrote a joke I just can’t let go of. Don’t get excited. It is not funny. Like at all. But it still sticks with me. I wrote it while I was in college at William and Mary and attending the longest continually running Episcopal church there in the heart of colonial Williamsburg. As you can imagine living and worshiping right next to a living museum makes you love the history and tradition that beautify and define that place. I have always loved tradition. I am an Episcopalian from the cradle after all. Yet there was something interestingly forced about praying in a church while you can hear the clicking of cameras and you can hear, “interesting. Did Thomas Jefferson really sit here?” from the aisle. When I learn a lesson I often commit it to humor so I will remember it.

So this is my unfunny joke:

Question: “How many Episcopalians does it take to change a lightbulb?”

Answer: “Change our lightbulb!?!?! Do you realize that bulb has been there since they invented electricity?”

I told you it wasn’t funny.

But I remember it, because it helps me focus on the kind of tradition Jesus teaches. Jesus is constantly coming into conflict with the good religious people of his day. He and his disciples are getting into trouble with religious leaders because they aren’t doing what the leaders thought should be done. Jesus was God incarnate, but that is easy to miss when you are focused on evaluating rather than experiencing. And the religious people of his day miss it over and over again.

One of the things that is difficult for me to see in the Bible, but I believe is important is this lesson: There is a difference between what is tradition and what we are accustomed to.

We are accustomed to the lightbulb, but if it has burned out then it is actually getting in the way of the purpose of the lamp.

\*continued on next page

## October 2024

### Sundays

- 8:00a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I
- 9:00a.m. Adult Christian Education
- 10:30a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II
- 10:30a.m. Children’s Chapel

### Wednesdays

- 10:30a.m Healing Service

### Coming Up

- |         |                         |         |
|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| Oct. 5  | Men’s Club              | 8:00am  |
| Oct. 5  | Blessing of the Animals | 10:00am |
| Oct. 7  | St. Elizabeth’s Guild   | 12:00pm |
| Oct. 8  | Book Club               | 10:00am |
| Oct. 18 | Quilting Bee            | 10:00am |
| Oct. 18 | Oktoberfest             | 6:00pm  |
| Oct. 19 | Lifeline Screening      |         |
| Oct. 19 | TRCC                    | 3-5pm   |
| Oct. 23 | Vestry                  | 6:00pm  |
| Oct. 27 | Men’s Night Out         | 6:30pm  |

Tradition is the light not the bulb. It is not about continuing with what we are accustomed to, it is about the mission of the truth and power of the gospel.

So I hope you can tell that I still love tradition. I love it so much that I never want it to be eclipsed by the way things have been done.

In peace,  
Les+



### Seek Ye First

Last month, I had one of the greatest thrills of my ministry at St. Andrew's. I was able to lead the preschool's children's chapel for the first time. Many of you probably saw the pictures of me with my Ukulele on Facebook. As I was going through the very short list of songs I know how to play on the Ukulele (I hadn't picked mine up in a year) I came across the old favorite: Seek Ye First.



As I was practicing it and trying to think about how to explain it to the kids, I realized that there is a lot more to the lyrics than I ever noticed before the song became a cliché in my head. This is one of the reasons why ministry with Children is important for all Christians. It helps us reconnect with wisdom long forgotten or taken for granted.

The lyrics are pretty close to direct quotes from Jesus, but I think because I learned it as a child, I missed the depth. "Ask and it shall be given unto you." "Seek and ye shall find." I had those words filed in my brain under naive wishful thinking. Somewhere in my journey to adulthood I disregarded wishful thinking probably when I discovered unanswered prayers or about half past my first heartbreak.

In replaying it though I noticed so much more clearly the first line. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness." My attempt to translate that into child speak was, "First make sure that God is your home, and that you are a good friend to God." Then I realized how much actually changes when you do that. I started to think about how much the things that I want have changed and how much they do change when I put my relationship with God first. I am a creature of many wants. Mainly Chromebooks, big screens and musical instruments, but when my relationship with God is strong those wants change, stop, or diminish. What emerges is a me that is much more interested in how I can be of use than what I can get. What emerges is someone much more focused on being a blessing than on accumulating them.

And this brilliance was hidden in this childhood song the whole time. "And all these things will be added." If you want to get what you want the trick is to learn to want what God gives in abundance. It isn't that prayer is a cheat code unlocking all the stuff. It is that prayer changes the game so that all you want is what God has to offer.

Then immediately I stopped wishing that I could play a better, newer, jazzier song, and all I wanted to do was practice that one.



Children's Chapel is off to a fun start! We used legos to build the stories of creation and Adam and Eve. We ate apples and gummy snakes while learning about the tree of knowledge. We ate sunflower and pumpkin seeds while pondering what plants God created first. Our volunteers have gotten to spend a little time with the children, and have gotten to know some of them a little more. We have many weeks available if you would



like to volunteer! Please call, text, or email Lora Pons at [crplep@gmail.com](mailto:crplep@gmail.com) if you are interested!



"Children are the seeds of our future. Plant love in their hearts and water them with wisdom and life's lessons."

Story of Cain and Able in Legos



### Preschool Children's Chapel

Bible lessons, fun, music, and laughter take place in our sanctuary the first and third Wednesday of the month.



# 2024

## OCTOBER

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday



6

8:00 a.m. HE Rite I  
Pack backpack food bags  
9:15 a.m. Adult Ed  
10:30 a.m. HE Rite II

7

St. Elizabeth's Guild  
12-1 p.m.  
TRAC 6:30-9:00 p.m.

13

8:00 a.m. HE Rite I  
Pack backpack food bags  
9:15 a.m. Adult Ed  
10:30 a.m. HE Rite II

14

TRAC 6:30-9:00 p.m.

20

8:00 a.m. HE Rite I  
Pack backpack food bags  
9:15 a.m. Adult Ed  
10:30 a.m. HE Rite II  
Pack food pantry bags

21

TRAC 6:30-9:00 p.m.

27

8:00 a.m. HE Rite I  
Pack backpack food bags  
9:15 a.m. Adult Ed  
10:30 a.m. HE Rite II  
Men's Night Out 6:00 p.m.

28

TRAC 6:30-9:00 p.m.

1

Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.

2

Food Pantry 9-10:30 a.m.  
Healing Service 10:30 am

3

Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.  
Tar River Children Chorus  
4:30-7:00 p.m.

4

Preschool Blessing of  
the Animals 11:30am

5

Men's Club 8 a.m.  
Blessing of the  
Animals 10 a.m.

8

Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.  
Book Club 10:00 a.m.  
Gamma Tau meeting  
4:30-6pm  
Finance Committee 6pm  
Lion's Club 6:00 p.m.

9

Food Pantry 9-10:30 a.m.  
Healing Service 10:30 a.m.

10

Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.  
Tar River Children Chorus  
4:30-7:00 p.m.

11

12

15

Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.

16

Food Pantry 9-10:30 a.m.  
Healing Service 10:30a.m.

17

Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.  
Meals on Wheels 10:00 a.m.  
Tar River Children Chorus  
4:30-7:00 p.m.

18

Quilting Bee  
10am-12pm  
Oktoberfest 6pm

19

8 a.m.—5 p.m.  
Life Line Screening  
TRCC 3-5 p.m.

22

Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.  
Townes Homeowners  
Meeting 4:30 p.m.  
Gamma Tau meeting  
4:30-6pm  
Lion's Club 6:00 p.m.

23

Food Pantry 9-10:30 a.m.  
Healing Service 10:30 am  
Vesty 6:00p.m.

24

Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.  
Tar River Children Chorus  
4:30-7:00 p.m.

25

26

29

Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.

30

Food Pantry 9-10:30 a.m.  
Healing Service 10:30 a.m.

31

Food Pantry 9-11 a.m.  
Tar River Children Chorus  
4:30-7:00 p.m.





2024



**LAY/LEM READERS**

**October 6**

8:00 Albert Corinth  
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Elizabeth Pope  
Linda Hutcheson

**October 13**

8:00 George Earp  
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Matt Smith  
Martha Lamm

**October 20**

8:00 Albert Corinth  
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Pete Roy  
Sandy Suggs  
Linda Hutcheson

**October 27**

8:00 George Earp  
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Sarah Dial  
Jeanie Armstrong  
Leslie Hall

**Acolytes**

**October 6**

10:30 Walker Wells  
Jack Lea

**October 13**

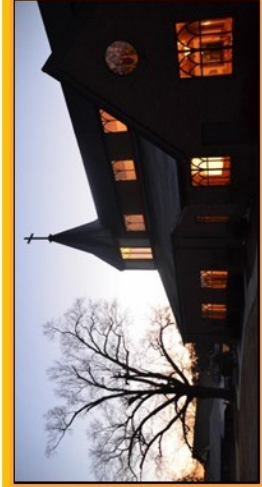
10:30 Lauren and Megan Renck

**October 20**

10:30 The Mericles

**October 27**

10:30 Landon Newcomb  
Liam Jenkins



*Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.*

~ Hebrews 11:1-3

**USHERS**

**October 6**

Billy Suggs  
Steve Thunkill

**October 13**

Mike Pitt  
Jan Arnold

**October 20**

Dan Melnyk  
Don Mucci

**October 27**

Angela Reid  
Tom Jenkins



**Pantry Distributors**

Tuesday—Patty Kennedy  
Wednesday—Tommy Parker  
Thursday—Elizabeth Hunter

**Pantry Volunteers**

Mary Ann Crawford  
Diane Dunstan  
Marie Inscore

**Kitchen Clean Up**

Tony and Marie Inscore

**Greeters**

Volunteers



Thank you to everyone who came to help set up for Food Pantry!



### Calling all Parishioners!

Feeling called to be more involved with the church on Sunday mornings? We are in need of new members to be a LAY, LEM, or Usher. Don't know what that is or what's involved, don't worry, we do! Just talk with Ramona Orzell and she will be able to tell you all about it.



On Thursday, September 5th, St Andrew's EYC, led by Landon Newcomb, delivered hygiene & paper products for the United Community Ministries' homeless shelter, of Rocky Mount.

Thank you everyone for bringing items in!  
They are very grateful people at UCM!

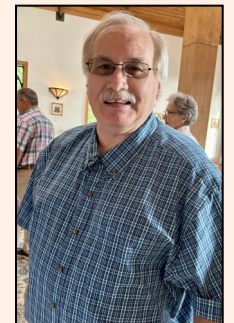
Pic: Tanya Parker, UCM supervisor,  
Rita Coggins, Landon and Maria Newcomb and Rev. Les  
from St Andrew's

## Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry



We gave 45 boxes full of supplies to the Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry! Thank you to everyone who brought clothing items in or donated funds for the Lighthouse boxes.

## CELEBRATING SUNDAYS AT ST. ANDREW'S





**ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
 301 Circle Drive • Rocky Mount, NC 27804

U.S. Postage  
 Paid  
 Non Profit  
 Organization  
 Permit #278  
 Rocky Mount, NC

*Return Service Requested*

## Our Parish Family

### Blessing of the Animals



Bring your favorite furry pets or beloved stuffed animals for a blessing on Saturday, October 5th at 10am. Meet outside the front doors of the church.

St. Andrew's Book Club will meet on Tuesday, October 8th in the Parlor. We're reading The Measure by Nikki Erlick. Everyone is welcome!



St. Elizabeth's Guild meets Monday, Oct. 7th from 12-1pm in the Parish Hall. Rachel Dix is hosting. Please bring a bag lunch. Dessert and beverages will be provided. Come join the fellowship and laughter!



Men's Club meets Saturday, October 5th at 8am in the Parish Hall.



We will pack food pantry bags on October 20th after the 10:30am service.

Vestry meets on Wednesday, October 23rd at 6pm

### Oktoberfest

**October 18th at 6pm**

Join us out on the side lawn for food and fun. Smore's will be included by the fire pit! Invite family and friends to celebrate our mission of welcoming all to our church for a fun and festive event!



Life Line Screening will be at St. Andrew's Saturday, October 19, 2024  
 Call 888-814-0416 to register.