

The Call

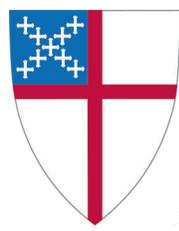
Newsletter



October 2025

St. A's Children's Chapel

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St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church



REV. LES' RANDOM THOUGHTS

From the Heart to the Heart



“The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.”
-Psalm 51:17

One of the things I love about singing is that it is vulnerable. It may sound strange coming with someone who clearly has a loud booming voice, but it doesn't feel like that on the inside. When I sing my heart is shaky. Interestingly enough though I believe that it is the very shakiness that sounds like vibrato to God's ear. Maybe all prayer is like that.



Episcopalians are famous, maybe infamous among Christians about our pursuit of quality in worship and I think that is good as long as the pursuit never overtakes the purpose. Our purpose is to honor and connect with God. I love listening to recorded coral music but a Spotify playlist will never be as personal as my voice even when it stands on a shaky heart. Maybe because it stands on one.

I say all this because of my deference and respect for what I have seen and am seeing in our church's music programs. It is vulnerable and beautiful to be learning alongside other adults in Polly's language of music class. Vulnerable for sure as we are learning to read and write anew. In some ways, it is like elementary school all over again. But that is how we do new things. We start at the beginning. Thank God we have Polly as our patient and loving guide!

“
How do you give your shaky heart to God?
”

Our choir too is beginning to take shape. We have brought in our first staff singer/flutist. And something I think is especially lovely is blooming from the heart of it.

Martha (one of our choir members) and our Jr. Warden Tommy came together to design and craft special crosses for the choir to wear in worship. I don't know about you, but I think my shaky singing heart would soften a bit to know it has been adorned by their steady hands. The cross they designed has a point on the bottom of it which I believe is a symbol of the way that music pierces the heart of the worshiper, is driven from the heart of the musician, and rests in the very heart of God.

How do you give your shaky heart to God? What breaks your heart? What breaks it open?

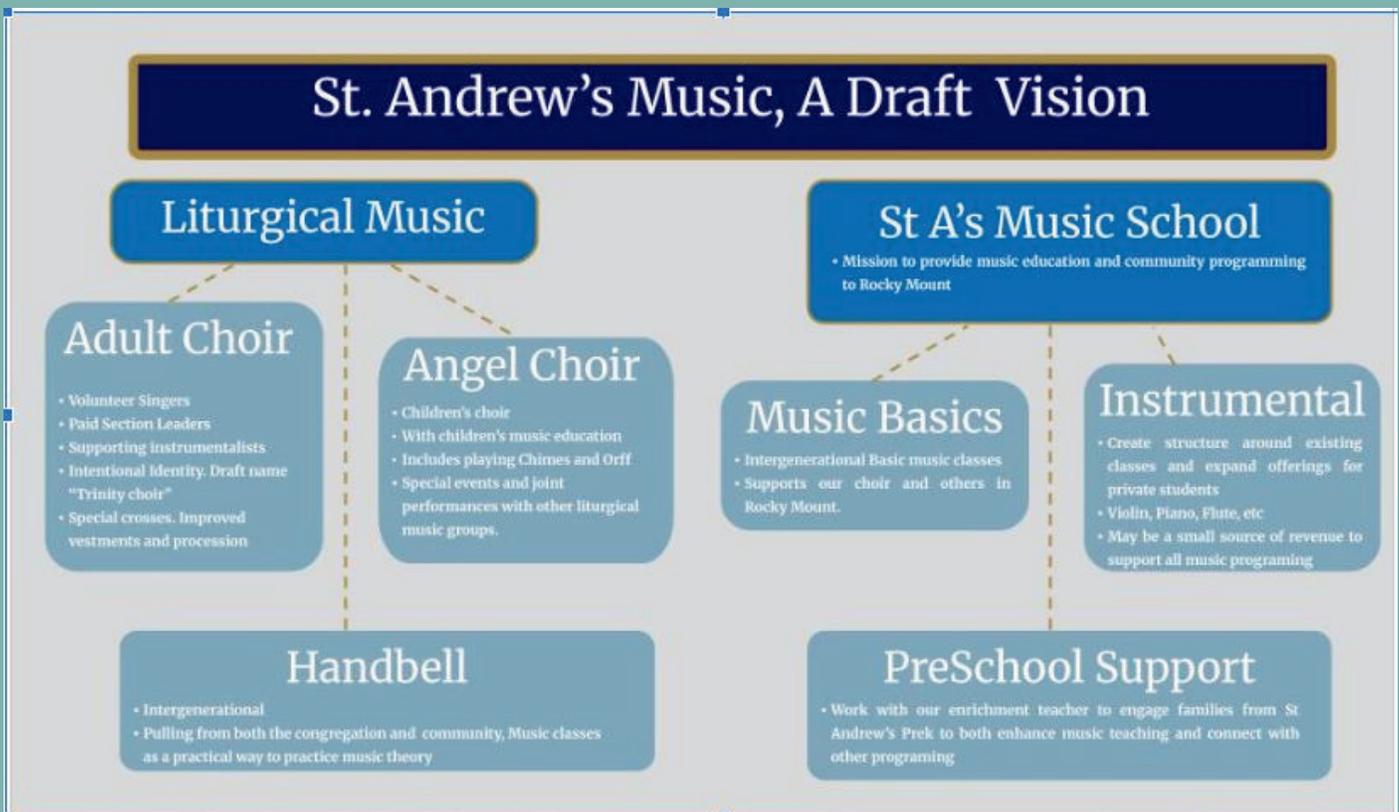


Musical Banquet

On August 27th, we held a wonderful dinner to celebrate all that is going on in our music ministry. We are excited about our comprehensive vision for excellence and growth. We are drastically improving our choirs capacity by bringing in additional payed singers to support them. This is being funded by a significant designated gift to support the program. Along with that we are starting a handbell choir, and we hope to start a children's choir too.

We are also expanding our offerings to the community at large. We are bringing together those already involved in teaching music here, expanding those offerings, and we have started our own music basics class. Along with our work with the preschool and deepening our connections with Tar River we are hopeful that our music offerings are really going to be taking off.

Are you interested in learning more? Contact Polly Beaver.



Outreach Ministry



In September, a Subcommittee of the Outreach Team created an Asset Based Community Development Team. The team worked to apply for an opportunity of training and grant money from the Duke and Lily Endowment Foundation. If chosen, the team will participate in training sessions for 18 months and work on creating, planning, and implementing an outreach project for our community.



The “Wings of Love Bag Ministry” collected items for local migrant farmers as well as farmworkers at the Episcopal Farmworkers Camp. Deacon Susan delivered items on September 7th to a camp right here in Nash County.



At their meeting in September, the Outreach Team put together individual toiletries bags to be delivered to local migrant farmers. Tony Inscore and Father Les delivered items to the Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry in Dunn.



October’s Bags will be for Peacemakers Christmas Toy Store. You can fill your bags with items for children from birth to 16 years of age. In lieu of doing Angel Tree packages for our friends at Carriage Apartments, we will be giving them vouchers to shop at Peacemakers’ Christmas Shop on December 5th and 6th. Volunteers are needed to help work the store. Please let Deacon Susan know if you are interested.



November Bags will be for Thanksgiving Dinner Distributions. A list will come out with specific items or parishioners can donate money for purchasing the turkeys. December Bag Ministry will be for the Homeless Shelter.



ST. ANDREW'S FAMILY



Thank you to everyone who helped pack bags for our food pantry!



Our food pantry clients have been enjoying fresh produce from our garden!

2025

October



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel EYC 11:30am	6 St. Elizabeth's Guild 12pm	7 Food Pantry 9- 11am	1 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am Mahjong 6pm	2 Food Pantry 9- 11am	3	4 Men's Club 8am Blessing of the Animals 10am
8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel	13	14 Food Pantry 9- 11am Book Club 10am ADK 4pm Vestry 6pm	8 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	9 Food Pantry 9- 11am	10 11	11
8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel	12 19	20	15 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	16 Food Pantry 9- 11am Meals on Wheels 10am	17 Oktoberfest 6pm	18
8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel EYC 11:30am	21	21 Food Pantry 9- 11am HOA 4:30pm Finance 6pm	22 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	23 Food Pantry 9- 11am	24	25
8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel	26	28 Food Pantry 9- 11am	29 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	30	31	



Ministry Schedule October 2025

LAY/LEM Readers

October 5

8:00 Virgil Evans
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Jeanie Armstrong
Sarah Dial
Lisa Stone

October 12

8:00 George Earp
Forrest Mericle

10:30 Paul Stone
Elizabeth Pope
Martha Lamm

October 19

8:00 Albert Corinth
Tim Knapp

10:30 Terry Shackelford
Brad Earle
Leslie Hall

October 26

8:00 Sheryl Love-Johnson
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Pete Roy
Sandy Suggs
Matt Smith

Acolytes

October 5

10:30 Walker Wells
Jack Lea

October 12

10:30 Lauren Renck
Megan Renck

October 19

10:30 The Mericles

October 26

10:30 Landon Newcomb
Liam Jenkins

Ushers

October 5

Jan Arnold
John Lea

October 12

Angela Reid
Tom Jenkins

October 19

Billy Suggs
Steve Thurkill

October 26

Dan Melnyk
Don Mucci

Greeters

Rita Coggins
Brad Earle

Kitchen Clean Up:

Rita Coggins
EYC

Pantry Distributers

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

Pantry Volunteers

Mary Ann Crawford
Diane Dunstan
Rachel Dix



St. Andrew's Children's Chapel and Youth Programs

Children's Chapel is back! Lora Pons has put together a great program this year. All elementary school youth are welcome to join in the fun in the Parish Hall at 10:30am. Linda Parker is in our nursery for our littlest youth on Sunday mornings.



For our older youth who want to participate more in the service, we would love to talk with you about becoming an acolyte!

EYC - Come Help Plan!

EYC meets the first and third Sunday of the month. EYC are for anyone fifth grader and above. We will be planning an overnight later in the fall and a presentation for our Mission trip to Western NC.



GRANDPARENT'S DAY WITH ST. A'S PRESCHOOL

Thank you to Elizabeth Pope, Lisa Nelson, and Debbie Mills for helping to set up. Thank you to Rev. Les, Tony Inscore, Jay Hunter, Mike Pitt, Tommy Parker, and Steve Thurkill for cooking up a wonderful feast!

We treated over 100 grandparents to a delicious breakfast!





Camping in the Parish Hall

The 3 year old class enjoyed learning about all things camping. We had tents set up, they enjoyed s'mores, sang camp songs, and genuinely had a ball!



Fire Safety





Maintenance Around the Church

Randy
Crawford
fixed our
fountain in the
Memorial
Garden!

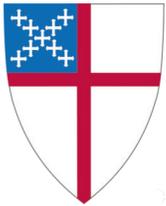


The Choir is Back!



St. Andrew's Choir is back in full swing! Practices are on Wednesday nights at 6:30pm. If you are interested in joining the choir please let our Choir Director, Polly Beaver know.





St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



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301 South Circle Dr, Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Return Service Requested

Our Parish Family



Octoberfest Friday, October 17th at 6pm

Join us on the side yard for food and fun for all ages!

Smore's will be included by the fire pit!

Lots of lawn games for the young at heart!

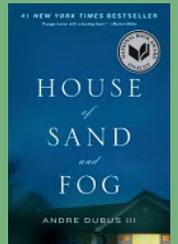
Blessing of the Animals

Bring your favorite furry pets or beloved stuffed animals for a blessing on **Saturday, October 4th** at 10am. Meet outside the front doors of the church.

Men's Club meets Saturday, October 4th at 8am in the Parish Hall.

We will be packing Food Pantry bags on October 19th after the 10:30am service in the Parish Hall.

Book Club is reading House of Sand and Fog by Andre Dubuis. We look forward to seeing everyone October 14th at 10am in the Parlor Room to discuss!



Come and have a "Rocking Good Time" on 10/6/2025 in the parish Hall from 12:00pm to 1:00pm

All women are welcome to St. Elizabeth's Guild.



Bring a bag lunch and dessert and beverage will be provided by hostess Rachel Dix. Program presented by Martha Lamm.