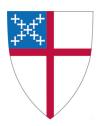






November 2025

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St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church





REV. LES' RANDOM THOUGHTS

A General Thanksgiving

November is a month of counting blessings for me. The celebration of Thanksgiving and the close of stewardship season, both bring to mind, gratitude. I think thanks is best when it is specific. Thank you, God, for sending me my wife Becky and her laughter, which soothes my heart each evening. Thank you, God, for giving me the courage to hang paper doves from the cross and especially for an altar guild open enough to like it. Just saying thanks for everything is good, but I don't know that it creates the same change in me that a real gratitude inventory does.

For that reason, it is funny that one of my favorite prayers is actually titled, "A general thanksgiving." It is from the Book of Common Prayer and I find it truly beautiful and moving. Please pray it with me now:

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

Thanks is best when it is specific.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

I am touched by the way it thanks God for demanding our best efforts and even our failures. I don't know if most days I am grateful for those things, but I would like to be. And when I pray the words I am, if only for a moment. I am also touched by the "above all" section. I think there is no better way to end a gratitude inventory than to do so by thanking God for being the kind of caring, loving, self-giving God He is.

Outreach Ministry

"Wings of Love Bag Ministry"

November 2, 2025 Bags go out for Thanksgiving Dinners return November 9th Specific list created with pictures.

November 24th at 7:30 bags will be packed and distribution will be 9:00-11:00. Please let the office know if you can help.

Boxes for Children in Armenia. Englewood Methodist Church is collecting items in a shoebox. If you would like to donate, get a box and top with a list of items. The boxes are in the conference room on the bottom shelf.

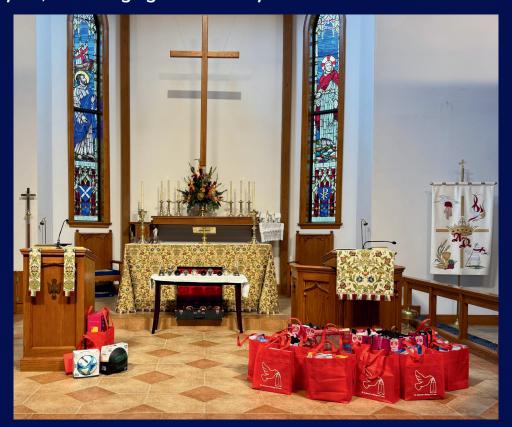
Toys for Peacemakers Christmas Store donation box created by the Sunday School, will be in the commons near the coffee table. In case you missed the opportunity. The store is open December 5th & 6th. Signup to help on Peacemakers website:

https://rockymountpeacemakers.org/donate/

December 7, 2025 Bags go out for United Community Ministry return December 14th.

Items will include toiletries, socks, gloves, hats. The Youth will create gift bags for UCM.

January 11, 2025 bags go out for My Sister's House return January 18th.





November

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8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel Jingle Mingle 5pm	8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel Advent Wreaths	16 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel	9 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel	8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 9:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel EYC 11:30am		Sunday
	24	17	10	3 St. Elizabeth's Guild 12pm		Monday
	25 Food Pantry 9- 11am	18 Food Pantry 9- 11am HOA 4:30pm Finance 6pm	Food Pantry 9- 11am Book Club 10am ADK 4pm Vestry 6pm	4 Food Pantry 9- 11am		Tuesday
	26 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	19 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	5 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am		Wednesday
	27 Food Pantry 9- 11am	20 Food Pantry 9- 11am Convention	13 Food Pantry 9- 11am Meals on Wheels 10am	6 Food Pantry 9- 11am		Thursday
	28	21	14 Shrimparoo 6pm	7		Friday
	29	22	15	8 UCM Cookout	1 Men's Club 8am	Saturday



LAY/LEM Readers

November 2

8:00 Tim Knapp Ramona Orzell

10:30 Terry Shackleford Sarah Dial Omari Ansong

November 9

8:00 Virgil Evans Brian Westcott

10:30 Paul Stone Lisa Stone Brad Earle

November 16

8:00 Ramona Orzell Ramona Orzell

10:30 Pete Roy Forrest Mericle Michele Richwalski

November 23

8:00 Sheryl Love-Johnson Ramona Orzell

10:30 Brandon Rollingss Elizabeth Pope Martha Lamm

November 30

8:00 Ramona Orzell Ramona Orzell

10:30 Sarah Dial Sandy Suggs Omari Ansong

Ministry Schedule November 2025

Acolytes

November 2

10:30 Walker Wells

Jack Lea

November 9

10:30 Lauren Renck Megan Renck

November 16

10:30 The Mericles

November 23

10:30 Landon Newcomb Liam Jenkins

November 30

10:30 Walker Wells Jack Lea

Vestry Greeters

Ashley Newcomb Helen Galligan

Pantry Distributers

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

Ushers

November 2

Brad Earle TBD

November 9

Jan Arnold John Lea

November 16

Angela Reid Tom Jenkins

November 23

Billy Suggs Steve Thurkill

November 30

Dan Melnyk Don Mucci

Kitchen Clean Up:

Angela Reid Martha Lamm

Pantry Volunteers

Rita Coggins Rosemary Clark Missy Filliettez

OKTOBERFEST

Lora Pons and Martha Lamm did an excellent job painting our new Cornhole pieces.











We had 96 people in attendance!













We can't wait next year!







St. Andrew's Children's Chapel

Children's Chapel began again in September after a joyful (but too hot) summer break. During our 10:30 service, our youngest members gather in the Parish Hall for a time of worship and learning. Through prayer, Bible stories, videos, songs, and hands on activities, the kids explore God's love and learn how to build their faith and live it out in everyday life. In Children's Chapel, we believe kids learn best through play! We build our bible lessons with legos, food, or play doh every week. Sometimes we even use art as a tool for our lessons.

We also have a new and exciting addition to our program! Meg and Gates Whitmer have graciously stepped in to help run our wonderful program. They bring with them their daughter, Holly (6), and son, Harrison (3). They have so much love, knowledge, and faith to share with our kids.

If you would like to pitch in and donate any snacks, or best of all your TIME, please come and let me know! We would love to share the opportunity of shaping these young hearts with you.

Peace and love, Lora Pons

St. Andrew's EYC

Our youth created bags to light up the labyrinth for the deacon retreat.











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Our Parish Family



St. Andrew's Preschool Fundraiser

There are only a few tickets left!
Be sure to pick one up at the church. Orders of 10 or more will be delivered.

We will be packing Food Pantry bags on November 2nd after the 10:30am service in the Parish Hall.

Book Club is reading <u>The Frozen River</u> by Ariel LawHon. We look forward to seeing everyone November 11th at 10am in the Parlor Room to discuss!



St. Elizabeth's Guild meets on 11/3/2025 in the parish Hall from 12:00pm to 1:00pm

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



Annual Thanksgiving staff appreciation luncheon.

Men's Club meets Saturday, November 1st at 8am in the Parish Hall.

Learn and Ring!

Recruiting ringers for our new handbells. Class will be on Mondays at 5:30pm or Thursdays at 4pm.

For more information, please contact Polly Beaver. Text at 713-855-2226 or email