

# The Call

Newsletter

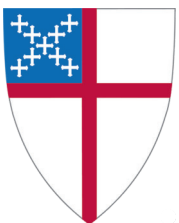


## Shrimparoo



December 2025

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**St. Andrew's**  
Episcopal Church





# REV. LES' RANDOM THOUGHTS

***Somewhere...***

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“Birds fly over the rainbow. Why, oh why, can't I?”

- “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” lyrics by Yip Harburg.

There is a song I have been to afraid to play. Most of you know know that I am a ukulele enthusiast and making music for me is both joyful and prayerful. There is a song. By far it is the most popular ukulele song of all time. Every time I listen to it I am in awe. It is a cover, oddly enough, of “Somewhere over the Rainbow” preformed by a masterful player and singer named Israel Kamakawiwo'ole (or IZ for short).

If you haven't heard this version I strongly encourage you to search for it. Though IZ is a masterful ukulele player, in this song what he plays is very understated within the reach of a beginner at the instrument. Yet the combination of the simple strumming and IZ's soulful voice reveal things about that popular song that most of us missed until he sang it.

Somewhere Over the Rainbow is a hopeful song but IZ captures its sadness too. Anyone could look at the score and see the minor chords, but the way he plays them and sings the notes allows you to experience the depths of loss which always accompany authentic hope. Don't get me wrong. The song is still hopeful, happy even. But the performance is exquisitely happy-sad.

I have known for a while that I could manage to play and sing it, but I have avoided it. Both because I can't imagine adding anything to what IZ accomplished and also because it is vulnerable to open one's heart that much.

I say all this, because it is December, and there is something else that I feel many of us avoid because of its depth. The season of Advent seems to get buried deeper and deeper in the minds of Christians, but I think it is because we are afraid of it. Just as IZ revealed the depths of the overly familiar Somewhere Over the Rainbow so too Advent reveals the depths of Christmas. Advent with its longing and hope together do have this same exquisite happy-sad.

IZ showed us the hardest song to sing isn't difficult because of its complex fingering, it is hard because we are scared of being honest enough to show our loss and our hope simultaneously. That is why I am afraid to sing along. Advent shows us that the hardest prayers are not the straightforward laments, nor the joyful Thanksgivings of Christmas Eve. The hardest prayers are the ones that you need to come true, but you aren't sure they will.

Advent only lasts four weeks in our calendar, but the longing for a Messiah lasted for centuries. Much of our lives looks more like Advent than Christmas. Yet it is as easy to avoid the happy-sad in our pray life as it is for me to just play another song on the ukulele.

So I have decided to sing Somewhere over the Rainbow. Maybe never for you, but for me and hopefully my prayer life will sing along. Hopefully our prayer life will deepen this special and easily avoided season as we name the blessings for which our soul truly longs and rediscover the beauty of hope.



# Outreach Ministry



Wings of Love bags filled with items for Thanksgiving dinners

## "Wings of Love Bag Ministry"

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.



## UCM Cookout

We had 20 volunteers with a great representation of adults and our youth group. We prepared and served 90 residents as well as the staff.





2025

December



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 St. Elizabeth's Guild 12pm	2 Food Pantry 9- 11am	3 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	4 Food Pantry 9- 11am	5	6 Men's Club 8am
7 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel	8	9 Food Pantry 9- 11am Book Club 10am ADK 4pm Vestry 6pm	10 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	11 Food Pantry 9- 11am HOA 6:30pm	12	13
14 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am Pageant	15	16 Food Pantry 9- 11am HOA 4:30pm Finance 6pm	17 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	18 Food Pantry 9- 11am Meals on Wheels 10am Outreach 6pm	19	20
21 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am Lessons and Carols Children's Chapel	22 Greening of the Church	23 Food Pantry 9- 11am ADK 4:30pm	24 4:30pm Christmas Eve Service Church Office Closed	25	26	27
28 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel	29 Church Office Closed	30	31			





## Ministry Schedule December 2025

### LAY/LEM Readers

#### December 7

8:00 Virgil Evans  
Brian Westcott

10:30 Paul Stone  
Brad Earle  
Elizabeth Pope

#### December 14

8:00 Lynn Arnow  
Forrest Mericle

10:30 Terry Shackelford  
Martha Lamm  
Michele Richwalski

#### December 21

8:00 George Earp  
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Pete Roy  
Forrest Mericle  
Sandy Suggs

#### December 24

4:30 Paul Stone  
Lisa Stone  
Elizabeth Pope

#### December 28

8:00 Ramona Orzell  
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Terry Shackelford  
Brad Earle  
Lisa Stone

### Acolytes

#### December 7

10:30 Walker Wells  
Jack Lea

#### December 14

10:30 Christmas Pageant

#### December 21

10:30 The Mericles

#### December 24

10:30 Landon Newcomb  
Jack Lea

#### December 28

10:30 Walker Wells  
Jack Lea

### Ushers

#### December 7

Brad Earle  
TBD

#### December 14

Jan Arnold  
John Lea

#### December 21

Angela Reid  
Tom Jenkins

#### December 24

Jan Arnold  
Brad Earle

#### December 28

Billy Suggs  
Steve Thurkill

### Kitchen Clean Up:

Ramona Orzell

### Vestry Greeters

Lori Joyner  
Leslie Hall

### Pantry Distributors

Tuesday- Patty Kennedy  
Wednesday-Rosemary Clark  
Thursday- Elizabeth Hunter

### Pantry Volunteers

Elizabeth Mosley  
Tim and Kaye Dowd





# YOUTH AT MEDOC MOUNTAIN





# St. Andrew's Food Pantry



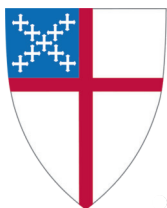
Thank you to everyone who continuously turns up to help with our food pantry packing! We are going through bags at record pace. Big thanks to Brad Earle who helps make sure we have enough supplies, Mandy Hudson who sets everything up for us, and to all our monthly helpers and volunteers who make sure our community have bags filled with food! We couldn't do this without each and every one of you!

## St. Elizabeth's Guild

St. Elizabeth's Guild hosted a delicious Thanksgiving meal for the church staff. Thank you for all you do!







# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



U.S. Postage  
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Permit #278  
Rocky Mount, NC

301 South Circle Dr, Rocky Mount, NC 27804

*Return Service Requested*

## Our Parish Family

### Advent/Christmas Schedule

**Dec 7<sup>th</sup>**

8am Rite I service  
10:30am Rite II Service

**Dec 14<sup>th</sup>**

8am Rite I service  
10:30am Christmas Pageant

**December 21<sup>st</sup>**

8am Rite I Service  
10:30am Lessons and Carols

**December 24<sup>th</sup>**

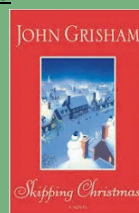
4:30pm Christmas Eve Service

**December 28th**

8am Rite I service  
10:30am Rite II Service

We will be packing Food Pantry bags on December 7th after the 10:30am service in the Parish Hall.

Book Club is reading Skipping Christmas by John Grisham. We look forward to seeing everyone December 9th at 10am in the Parlor Room to discuss!



St. Elizabeth's Guild meets on December 1st in the parish Hall from 12:00pm to 1:00pm

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



Men's Club meets Saturday, December 6th at 8am in the Parish Hall.

Church office is closed from December 24th-January 2nd. We will reopen Monday, January 5, 2026