

The Call

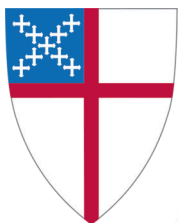
Newsletter



A Life of Thanks

January 2026

Random Thoughts	P.2
Thanksgiving	P.3
EYC	P.5
Calendar	P.6
Ministry Schedule	P.7
Wreaths	P.8
Pageant	P.10
Announcements	P.12



St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church



REV. LES' RANDOM THOUGHTS

New Year, New Horizons



It is 2026. It is hard to believe. The rush and wonders of the last year with you are so vivid in my mind that the time seems to have rushed like waves down a waterfall. I like New Year's and its invitation to reflect, to set goals, to start again and anew.

New Year's always brings me back. There is one New Year that always sticks out in my mind. It is not because of an oversized apple or a rocking eve it is because of a time of prayer. Back when I was still journeying toward the priesthood, I decided to make my way on New Year's Eve to St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in Seattle, WA, for a prayer service. St. Mark's has a beautiful worship space, and the service was well-crafted, but that is not why I remember it. I remember I was thinking to myself, "Can I really do this priest thing? Can I stand at the altar?" while I was milling around in the back of the worship space. Without thinking, I leaned against one of the huge four pillars holding up the box-like cathedral. Then I happened to look up and I saw it.

The ceiling of St. Mark's resembles the bottom of a huge table. The four pillars, one of which I was leaning on, resemble four table legs. Immediately, the image of the outside of the cathedral came to my mind, and the cross that seemed to just be placed on the roof. Then click. I got it. The cathedral is designed to be like one huge altar.

“With the power of Christ...we can do more”

I felt small but not in a bad way. I thought about how much I would have to grow to stand at that table. I should have felt scared by that, but I wasn't. I wanted it. I wanted my ministry to be that giant setting a building-sized altar.

Do you have anything like that? Something that both humbles you and calls you? Something you want to do or be a part of that feels huge? If so, I urge you to listen to it. Nurture it. Experiment with it.

Scripture tells us that with the power of Christ working in us, we can do more than we can ask or imagine. When we trust it, we will never be the same.

When I stand behind our altar with you every week, it is physically much smaller than the whole of St. Mark's Cathedral, but every time I come to our table, it feels just as big as the cathedral did when I was leaning against its leg. It is funny, but I don't feel small anymore. Nor do I feel like a giant. I guess I have just gotten used to feeling a part of something larger than myself. May you come to know that joy in 2026.

A blessed New Year to each of you!

Thanksgiving Boxes



We gave out 75 Thanksgiving turkeys with all the fixings on Monday, November 24th. Thank you to everyone who came out to help!



A Life of Thanks

I love to use my voice to raise a hymn of praise above. I love to use my eyes to see the beauty of love.

Thanks for eyes that I may see, for voice that I may sing, thank you God for all these gifts, thanks for everything.

I love to use my hands to bring the touch of God's great care. I love to use my feet to go and know He's always there.

Thanks for feet that I may go, for hands that I may bring, thank you God for all these gifts, thanks for everything.

I am your voice, your eyes, your hands, your feet with which to go; help me each day to do your will, a life of thanks to grow.



EYC

Decorated
the Stone
Cottage for
Christmas



Jingle Mingle



January 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div>4</div> <div>8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel</div>	<div>5</div> <div>St. Elizabeth's Guild 12pm</div>	<div>6</div> <div>Food Pantry 9-11am Epiphany Service 6:3pm - Good Shepherd</div>	<div>7</div> <div>Food Pantry 9-10:30am Healing Service 10:30am</div>	<div>8</div> <div>Food Pantry 9-11am</div>	<div>9</div> <div></div>	<div>10</div> <div>Men's Club 8am</div>
<div>11</div> <div>8:00am HE Rite I 9:10am Annual Parish Meeting 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel</div>	<div>12</div> <div></div>	<div>13</div> <div>Food Pantry 9-11am Book Club 10am ADK 4pm Vestry 6pm</div>	<div>14</div> <div>Food Pantry 9-10:30am Healing Service 10:30am</div>	<div>15</div> <div>Food Pantry 9-11am Meals on Wheels 10am</div>	<div>16</div> <div></div>	<div>17</div> <div></div>
<div>18</div> <div>8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel</div>	<div>19</div> <div></div>	<div>20</div> <div>Food Pantry 9-11am Finance 6:30pm</div>	<div>21</div> <div>Food Pantry 9-10:30am Healing Service 10:30am</div>	<div>22</div> <div>Food Pantry 9-11am</div>	<div>23</div> <div></div>	<div>24</div> <div>TRCC 3-5pm</div>
<div>25</div> <div>8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel</div>	<div>26</div> <div></div>	<div>27</div> <div>Food Pantry 9-11am</div>	<div>28</div> <div>Food Pantry 9-10:30am Healing Service 10:30am</div>	<div>29</div> <div>Food Pantry 9-11am</div>	<div>30</div> <div></div>	<div>31</div> <div></div>



Ministry Schedule January 2026

LAY/LEM Readers

January 4

8:00 Virgil Evans
Brian Westcott

10:30 Paul Stone
Lisa Stone
Sarah Dial

January 11

8:00 Tim Knapp
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Terry Shackleford
Brad Earle
Elizabeth Pope

January 18

8:00 Matt Smith
Tim Knapp

10:30 Brandon Rollings
Forrest Mericle
Martha Lamm

January 25

8:00 Sheryl Love-Johnson
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Pete Roy
Sandy Suggs
Omari Ansong

Acolytes

January 4

10:30 Walker Wells
Jack Lea

January 11

10:30 Lauren Renck
Megan Renck

January 18

10:30 The Mericles

January 25

10:30 Landon Newcomb
Liam Jenkins

Ushers

January 4

Dan Melnyk
Don Mucci

January 11

Jan Arnold
John Lea

January 18

Brad Earle
Skip/Stacey Pattington

January 25

Angela Reid
Tom Jenkins

Kitchen Clean Up:

Ramona Orzell

Vestry Greeters

Nancy Knapp

Pantry Distributors

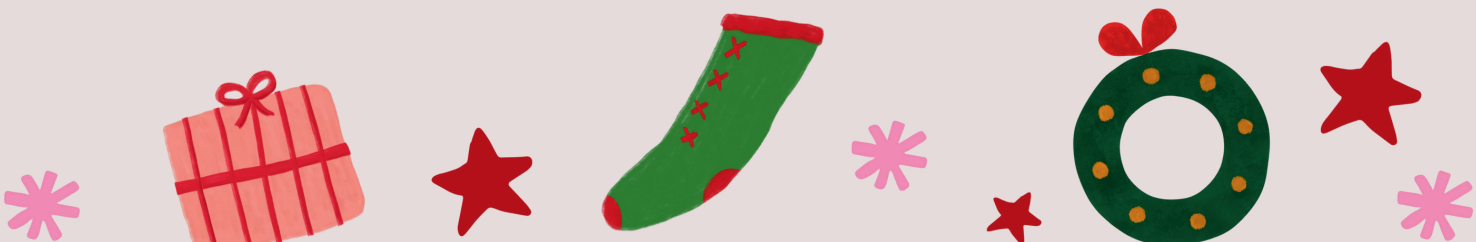
Tuesday- Patty Kennedy
Wednesday-Rosemary Clark
Thursday- Elizabeth Hunter

Pantry Volunteers

Lynn Ives
Terry Noble
Martha Lamm



Advent Wreaths





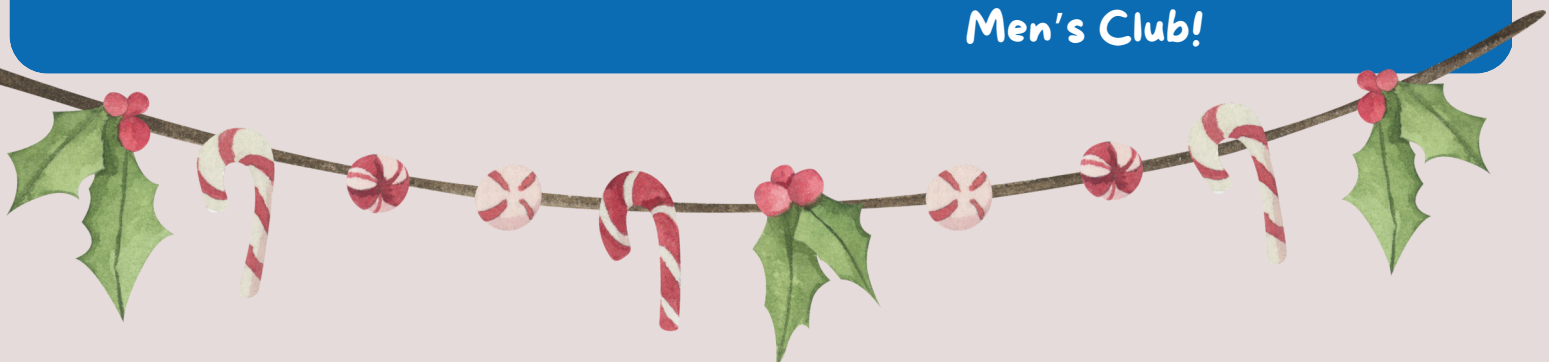
St. Elizabeth's Guild



Ramona Orzell and Pam Parker-Collwood provided lots of fun Christmas challenges at the meeting!



Merry Christmas from the Men's Club!



Pageant Rehearsal



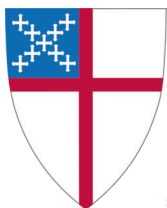
Pageant Recital





Following the Pageant we all had a great time eating cake, decorating the Christmas tree and making bags for the Food Pantry.





St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



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

301 South Circle Dr, Rocky Mount, NC 27804

Return Service Requested

Our Parish Family



Epiphany Service

Come join us on Tuesday,
January 6th at Church of the
Good Shepherd at 6:30pm.
Rev. Les will preach.

Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, Jan 11th at 9:10am

Discipleship: A Conversation with the Diocese
Feb. 14th at 11am-12:30pm

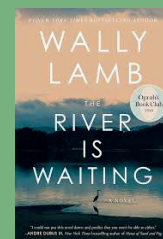
We will pray, share a meal, get to know one another
and explore a question at the heart of our collective
ministry: What is a disciple? Please register on the
app.

St. Elizabeth's Guild

Join us Monday, January 5th at 12pm in the Parish
Hall

We will be packing Food Pantry bags on January
18th after the 10:30am service in the Parish Hall.

Book Club is reading The River is
Waiting by Wally Lamb. We look
forward to seeing everyone January
13th at 10am in the Parlor Room to
discuss!



RISE Against Hunger

Saturday, Feb 7th

10am-12pm

Church of the Good Shepherd



Join us in packaging over 15,000 meals to support
nutrition, education, and health for children and
families facing hunger right now around the world.
Register online or on the app.

Men's Club meets Saturday, January 3rd at
8am in the Parish Hall.