

# The Call

Newsletter



## Childlike Wonder

March 2026

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**St. Andrew's**  
Episcopal Church





# REV. LES' RANDOM THOUGHTS

***Childlike not Childish***

"Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

-Mark 10:15

Recently, our church has found a new and playful air. I love it. With the meeting of the diocese here, Lora's presence on staff, and our emerging concepts for our Lenten teaching, I have continued to be in awe of the power of child oriented ministry. This has long been a big thing for me. Children running to the rail for communion, dancing during a closing hymn, or sounding out the Lord's prayer have always made my heart melt, but there is more to it than that. I have found that without the awe and playfulness of children a church can quickly lose grasp of the gospel.

***Faith speaks to trust without negotiation or understanding***

There is much to be said of the adult world and much of it belongs in church. We deal with adult themes like family crisis, death, and oh so many committee meetings, and all of that is valuable. Church takes us through the scariest and most poignant parts of our lives and fills them with blessing, hope, and gratitude. That is serious stuff.

But the work of faith goes deeper than the adult mind can muster. Faith speaks to trust without negotiation or understanding. Learning about God requires an openness that many adults forget, maybe on purpose.

# Childlike Not Childish

The Rev. Les Carpenter

One of the great joys of my ministry is watching thoroughly churchified adults play their way into new understanding, new faithfulness, and new faith because our programs can look at faith from a child's level. Children's ministries are not just for families; they minister to the child within which is where most of our deepest spiritual pains lie.

I pray that this Lent will be a true time of discovery for us as individuals and as a community as we let our children (both literal and figurative) guide us to the arms of our loving savior.



## Food Pantry

Thank you to everyone who donated or helped pack food pantry bags! We help to provide food to around 120 people every month so every bit helps!

Rise Against Hunger

Several St. Andrew's parishioners joined other churches of the Rocky Mount Convocation at Good Shepherd's "Rise Against Hunger" event, where volunteers packed more than 15,000 meal bags for communities in need.



Youth Luncheon

The Men's club cooked a taco luncheon for youth from St. Timothy's and St. Andrew's. The kids enjoyed the food, fellowship, and making God's Eyes together. Plans are underway to create more Rocky Mount youth events in the future.



Souperbowl Party

Rachael Dix and her Soupe Poulet et Nouilles won "Best Overall" in St. Andrew's 2026 Souper Bowl Cook-Off. Lisa and Paul Stone's Shrimp and Corn Chowder earned second place, and Sissy Dunton's Tasty Tomato Basil Soup placed third. The Outreach Team thanks all the cooks, the youth who decorated, and everyone who helped raise \$436. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship supporting Outreach.



# SNOW DAY FUN ○○○○

With schools out due to all the wintry weather, Lora Pons put together a few hours of fun for the kids who had been stuck at home for days. With games, movies, and food none of the kids wanted to leave!



# March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
<p>1 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel</p>	<p>2 St. Elizabeth's Guild 12pm</p>	<p>3 Food Pantry 9- 11am</p>	<p>4 Lenten noon service Englewood Lenten Series 5:30pm</p>	<p>5 Food Pantry 9-11am</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7 Men's Club 8am</p>
<p>8 8:00am HE Rite I 9:10am Annual 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 Food Pantry 9- 11am Book Club 10am ADK 4pm Vestry 6pm</p>	<p>11 Lenten Noon Service Lakeside Lenten Series 5:30pm</p>	<p>12 Food Pantry 9-11am</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 Food Pantry 9-11am Finance 6:30pm</p>	<p>18 Lenten Noon Service First Presbyterian Lenten Series 5:30pm</p>	<p>19 Food Pantry 9-11am Meals on Wheels 10am Outreach 6pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24 Food Pantry 9- 11am</p>	<p>25 Lenten Noon Service Good Shepherd Lenten Series 5:30pm</p>	<p>26 Food Pantry 9-11am</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 TRCC 3-5pm</p>
<p>29 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>				



## Ministry Schedule March 2026

### LAY/LEM Readers

#### March 1

8:00 Matt Smith  
Tim Knapp

10:30 Paul Stone  
Lisa Stone  
Brad Earle

#### March 8

8:00 Virgil Evans  
Brian Westcott

10:30 Martha Lamm  
Brandon Rollings  
Michele Richwalski

#### March 15

8:00 Sheryl Love-Johnson  
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Sandy Suggs  
Forrest Mericle  
Omari Ansong

#### March 22

8:00 Dick Arnow  
Pam Parker-Collood  
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Pete Roy  
Martha Lamm  
Elizabeth Pope

#### March 29

8:00 Ramona Orzell  
Tim Knapp

10:30 Michele Richwalski  
Brad Earle  
Lisa Stone

### Acolytes

#### March 1

10:30 Walker Wells  
Jack Lea

#### March 8

10:30 Lauren Renck  
Megan Renck

#### March 15

10:30 The Mericles

#### March 22

7pm Landon Newcomb  
Liam Jenkins

#### March 29

10:30 Walker Wells  
Jack Lea

### Ushers

#### March 1

Angela Reid  
Tom Jenkins

#### March 8

Billy Suggs  
Steve Thurkill

#### March 15

Dan Melnyk  
Don Mucci

#### March 22

Brad Earle  
Skip/ Stacey Partington

#### March 29

Jan Arnold  
John Lea

### Vestry Greeters

Tom Jenkins  
Carly Thrower

### Kitchen Clean Up:

Judy Anderson

### Pantry Volunteers

Betty Bunn  
Tom Jenkins

### Pantry Distributers

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

# SHROVE TUESDAY ...



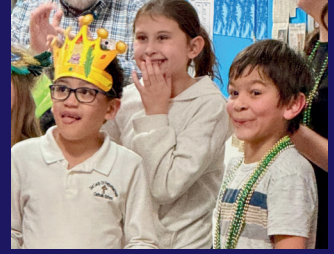
Our amazing set up crew!



We had over 90 people from St. Andrew's and Good Shepherd come and celebrate in the Parish Hall.



Rev. Les led the children through a relay race to see who would win the Golden Spatula!



Noah was our winner!





# ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 18, 2026



Father Les taught the preschoolers Lent is a time to say we're sorry and ask for forgiveness. Some of the children and teachers chose to then have ashes put on their foreheads.

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# Community Helpers at St. Andrew's Preschool



Charlotte's mom, Nurse Caitlin talked about how to take care of little tiny babies at the hospital. She brought a teeny tiny blood pressure cuff that would fit on a grown ups finger and showed us the smallest diaper we've ever seen!



Lineman Alex explained what he does and showed us some tools he uses and even explained how his bucet truck works!



Blakely's dad, Tyler came in to show us what a roof and gutter system do to keep rain away from our houses.



Pastor Chris Abner dressed his daughter Maggie up in his sport coat tie, glasses, caffeine, and Bible to show the class how he looks on Sunday morning.

# Children's Ministry

Lora Pons

I want to start off by first telling you all how grateful I am for my new role, and for this special ministry I get to serve. I have so much love, energy, and ambition to pour into our children and families!

We are adding Godly Play to our ministry, incorporating some intergenerational activities, sending home Children's Chapel recaps that support families to have spiritual conversations, and are amping up our learning through play. We have "buried the Alleluias", played Bible Bingo, and practiced being an Acolyte.



What a strong start to 2026!



We have some exciting things coming up:

**Lent Through The Eyes Of A Child**- this is going to be intergenerational with dinner and activities. The dates will be Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>, and March 25<sup>th</sup>.

**Holy Hangouts**- We are teaming up with the children of Good Shepherd to have social engagements throughout the year. Our first one is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>. More details to come.

**Crayon Covenant**- Martha Lamm and Lora Pons will be facilitating children's crafts after the 10:30 service every other month. Our first one will be April 12<sup>th</sup> and we will be making turtles out of stones. More details to come for this as well.

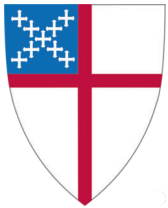
**Open Doors: Coffee With the Ministers**- We will have an open house for any new family who is curious about visiting St. Andrew's. All preschool families are invited, and please invite anyone you know who may be interested! This will be on April 18<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm.

**Easter Sunday**- We will dig up the "Alleluias" we buried before Lent, put flowers in our flowering cross, and have an Easter Egg hunt at the 10:30 Service on April 5<sup>th</sup>.

We have so much to look forward to!

I love you all so much!

-Lora



# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



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## Our Parish Family



### Lenten Series: Lent Through the Eyes of a Child

Wednesdays  
February 25-March 25  
5:30-7 pm

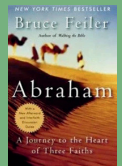
This year our Lenten Series will be unique! We will have food at 5:30pm and program starting at 6pm. Some Wednesdays we will be having a program for all ages some Wednesdays we will be separating it out. More details to come, but put it on your calendars now.

### St. Elizabeth's Guild

Join us Monday, March 2nd at 12pm in the Parish Hall

Outreach "Wings of Love" bags will focus on Backpack Buddies in March

Book Club is reading Abraham by Bruce Feiler. We look forward to seeing everyone March 10th at 10am in the Parlor Room to discuss!



We will be packing Food Pantry bags on March 15th after the 10:30am service in the Parish Hall.

### Stations of the Cross

**Feb 27-March 27**

**Friday's at 5 PM**

Come to our lay led reflection every Friday during lent in the Commons.

**Men's Club** meets Saturday, March 7th at 8am in the Parish Hall.

**Holy Hangouts-** We are teaming up with the children of Good Shepherd to have social engagements throughout the year. Our first one is scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup>. More details to come.