

The Call

Newsletter



Spring Up

April 2026

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St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church



REV. LES' RANDOM THOUGHTS

Springtime at St. Andrew's



As the North Carolina landscape transforms with the vibrant yellows of jasmine and the soft pinks of dogwoods, we find ourselves standing at the threshold of the most joyous season in the church calendar. At St. Andrew's, the "signs of life" aren't just found in our flower beds or memorial garden—they are pulsing through every hallway, pew, and community project we touch.

Flourishing Faith: Our Children and Families

There is a particular kind of magic happening in our classrooms and courtyard these days. Under the dedicated leadership of **Lora Pons**, our Children's Ministry is experiencing a beautiful season of growth. Much of which can be followed on Facebook! She is providing videos of recaps of Children's chapel sermons and pictures of activities. Those things give our parents and other parishioners prompts to talk about our faith with the children of the church and allow all of us to join in the vicarious fun!

We continue to grow the partnership between St. Andrew's and our **Preschool**. By fostering these connections, we aren't just sharing a building; we are weaving a singular, supportive community where our youngest members and their families feel truly at home. From the laughter echoing during Godly Play to the creative energy of our combined events, the future of our parish is bright and bustling. Please keep an eye out for the school's quarter auction (MCed by Miss Dot and Rev. Les) and many of the school's new gatherings and performances).

“
***God is doing something new at
St. Andrew's.***
”

A Symphony of Praise

If you've found yourself lingering in the nave a little longer after the postlude lately, you aren't alone. Our **Music Program**, led by the incomparable **Polly Beaver**, has reached new heights of excellence. Polly's vision and talent have enriched our liturgy, turning our worship into a profound sensory experience. Whether it is the soaring anthems of the choir or the delicate intentionality of the hymns, the music at St. Andrew's is truly serving as a "gateway to the divine" this Eastertide.

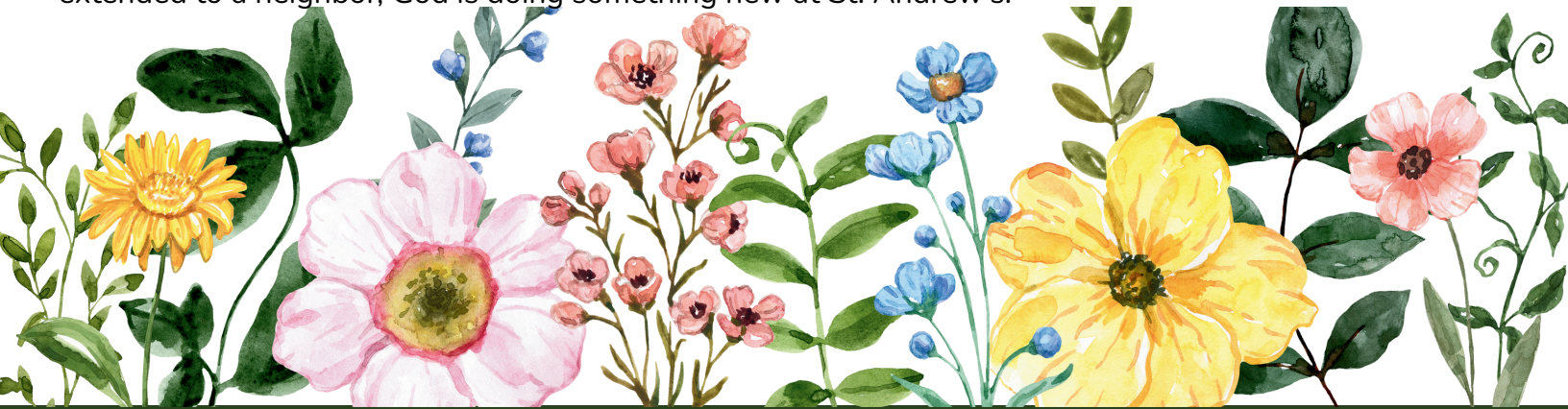
Beyond the Red Doors: Serving Rocky Mount

Easter is a reminder that the work of the Resurrection happens out in the world. St. Andrew's is deepening its roots in **Rocky Mount** through active community engagement and advocacy:

- **Civic Partnership:** Our growing involvement with the local Chamber of Commerce ensures that St. Andrew's has a seat at the table in the flourishing of our city's economy and spirit. We have served recently as hosts for the young professionals group when Rev. Les worked with these emerging leaders to develop their own mission and values. Rev. Les is also working to train leaders through our chamber in their Leadership Twin Counties program.
- **Outreach in Action: Deacon Susan** continues to be the hands and feet of Christ in our neighborhood. Her tireless outreach work is connecting those in need with vital resources and, more importantly, with a community that cares. Keep an ear open in announcements and always watch for the red bag ministry we use to promote a different community partner every month.

The Invitation

As we celebrate the empty tomb and the budding spring, we invite you to look around and see these "new signs of life" for yourself. Whether it's through a soaring note of music, a child's prayer, or a hand extended to a neighbor, God is doing something new at St. Andrew's.



March Outreach

The "Wings of Love" Bag Ministry stocked the shelves for our Backpack Buddies! So many items were collected, and the packers were busy on Sunday after the 8am service. What an awesome ministry supporting the children in need!



LENTEN SUPPERS ○○○○

Every Wednesday night during Lent we have had so much fun learning about Lent through the eyes of a child! Thank you to Lora Pons, Susan Schrader and Rev. Les for everything!



BAPTISMAL COVENANT RETREAT 2026

Episcopal Youth of the Rocky Mount Convocation

ARE YOU READY FOR AN OVERNIGHT YOU WON'T FORGET?

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

301 S Circle Drive

Rocky Mount, NC

April 24 • 7:00 PM to April 25 • 2:30 PM

LIVE YOUR BAPTISM

This isn't just another church event. It's:

Real Talk Breakout Sessions

High-Energy Games

Hands-On Local Outreach Project

Late-Night Fun & Fellowship

Worship That Hits Different

Small Groups That Go Deep

WHAT TO BRING:

Sleeping bag & pillow

Comfortable clothes

Toiletries

A friend (seriously — invite one!)

OPEN TO ALL YOUTH

6th grade to high school

Spots are limited — don't miss it!

NO COST- Donations for Migrant Farmers

Use the QR Code on the right to register!



April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Lenten Noon Service St. Andrew's	2 Food Pantry 9-11am Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	3 Good Friday Service 12pm	4 Men's Club 8am
5 8:00am HE Rite I 10am Easter Story 10:10am Egg Hunt 10:30am HE Rite II	6	7 Food Pantry 9-11am	8 Healing Service 10:30am	9 Food Pantry 9-11am	10	11
12 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	15 Healing Service 10:30am	16 Food Pantry 9-11am Meals on Wheels 10am Outreach 6pm	17	18 Preschool Quarter Auction
19 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel	20	21 Food Pantry 9-11am Finance 6:30pm	22 Healing Service 10:30am	23 Food Pantry 9-11am	24 EYC Convocation	25 →
26 8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel	27	28 Food Pantry 9-11am ADK 4pm	29 Healing Service 10:30am	30		



Ministry Schedule April 2026

LAY/LEM Readers

April 5

8:00 Ramona Orzell
Tim Knapp

10:30 Elizabeth Pope
Brad Earle
Brandon Rollings

April 12

8:00 Forrest Mericle
Pam Parker-Collwood

10:30 Paul Stone
Lisa Stone
Martha Lamm

April 19

8:00 George Earp
Tim Knapp

10:30 Sandy Suggs
Forrest Mericle
Michele Richwalski

April 26

8:00 Dick Arnow
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Pete Roy
Omari Ansong
Elizabeth Pope

Acolytes

April 5

10:30 Walker Wells
Jack Lea

April 12

10:30 Lauren Renck
Megan Renck

April 19

10:30 The Mericles

April 26

10:30 Landon Newcomb
Liam Jenkins

Ushers

April 5

Angela Reid
Tom Jenkins

April 12

Billy Suggs
Steve Thurkill

April 19

Dan Melnyk
Don Mucci

April 26

Brad Earle
Skip/ Stacey Partington

Vestry Greeters

Mary Ruffin
Maria Newcomb

Kitchen Clean Up:

Carol Bass

Pantry Distributers

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

Pantry Volunteers

Mary Ann Crawford
Diane Dunstan
Rachel Dix

SPIRIT WEEK

A fun filled week for our st. A's Preschool!

All the 3's got together while Mrs. Phyllis read a Dr. Seuss Dinosaur book. They then went on a dinosaur hunt using clues and finished the hunt by eating "Dinosaur Mud"!



Favorite Book Character Day



Hat Day in Pre-K and Kindergarten



Wacky Wednesday - writing under the desks



Pajama Day!

Children's Ministry

Children's Chapel is growing every week! Virgil Evans joined us to talk about the story of the good samaritan, Shannon Bertrand facilitated a creation care workshop and planted seeds with the kids, and Maria Gay joined us for fruit salad while discussing fruits of the spirit. Our children have loved having members of the church investing their time in them!

Upcoming Events

Crayon Covenant- Martha Lamm and Lora Pons will be leading children's crafts after the 10:30 service every other month. Our first one will be April 12th, and we will be making turtles out of stones. More details to come.

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 18th from 10am-12pm.

Easter Sunday- We will dig up the "Alleluias" we buried before Lent, put flowers in our flowering cross. The Easter story will be read to us at 10am in the Parish Hall and we will have an Easter Egg hunt at 10:10am in the side yard. Bring your Easter baskets!

We have so much to look forward to!
I love you all so much!

Lora Pons



St. Andrew's Preschool and Kindergarten Spring Concert



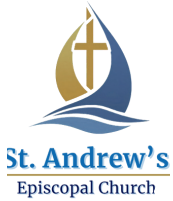
Psalm 33:3 – “Sing to him a new song; play skillfully, and shout for joy.”



HOLY HANGOUTS

St. Andrew's and Good Shepherd are teaming up every quarter to give the kids of both churches a chance to hangout and play! Our first one was at Capps Entertainment in Wilson. We played mini-golf and mini-bowling.





St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

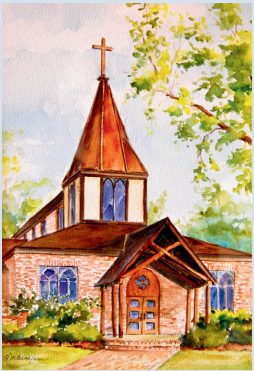


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Return Service Requested

Our Parish Family



Holy Week Schedule

- Apr 1** - Lenten Noon Service at St. Andrew's
- Apr 2** - Maundy Thursday Service 7pm.
- Apr 3** - Good Friday Service 12pm
- Apr 5** - 8am Rite I Service
10am Easter Story
10:10am Egg Hunt
10:30am Rite II Service

April's "Wing of Love" Bag Ministry is for the local migrant farmers.

You can also clean out your closets and storage by donating gently used items for the farmers. Those items include, lightweight men's pants, Long sleeve shirts, hats, and boots to wear in the field. They also need pillows, blankets, and towels. Spring cleaning feels refreshing, especially when you are donating to others in need.

The youth at the Baptismal Covenant Retreat on April 24-25th will be putting together the bags.

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

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

St. Elizabeth's Guild
Join us Monday, April 6th at 12pm in the Parish Hall

Book Club is reading The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield. We look forward to seeing everyone April 14th at 10am in the Parlor Room to discuss!

