

# The Call

Newsletter



## Stages of Grace

May 2026

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# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



# REV. LES' RANDOM THOUGHTS

## *Sacred Dance*



Proverbs 27:19 "As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart."

May marks a season of reflection for me. As we enter graduation season for our students and rest in the beauty of Eastertide, we have a wonderful opportunity to look back at the things we have accomplished together. We are seeing great achievements in our partnerships with the Rocky Mount community and our preschool, as well as growth in our numbers, but I want to take a moment to reflect on the heart of what we do.

This last Holy Week was so life-giving, and I am especially touched by the memory of our Maundy Thursday service.

I remember just two years ago being told that our congregation would "never allow" for foot washing. I suspected that was mostly because people didn't want to be

forced into it! This year, we held a beautiful foot washing for those who wished to participate. While it was wonderful to see so many come forward, what I found truly rewarding was the ease of the room. Whether people participated directly by washing or indirectly by praying in their seats, we joined together in a peaceful, respectful commonality.

The evening then moved into the stripping of the altar, which felt like witnessing a slow, sacred dance. I have never seen an Altar Guild so large and so dedicated in over a decade of ministry. Watching these strong, reverent women seated together in the transept, and then coming forward two-by-two to receive each sacred vessel, reminded me of the immense power and grace that group holds.

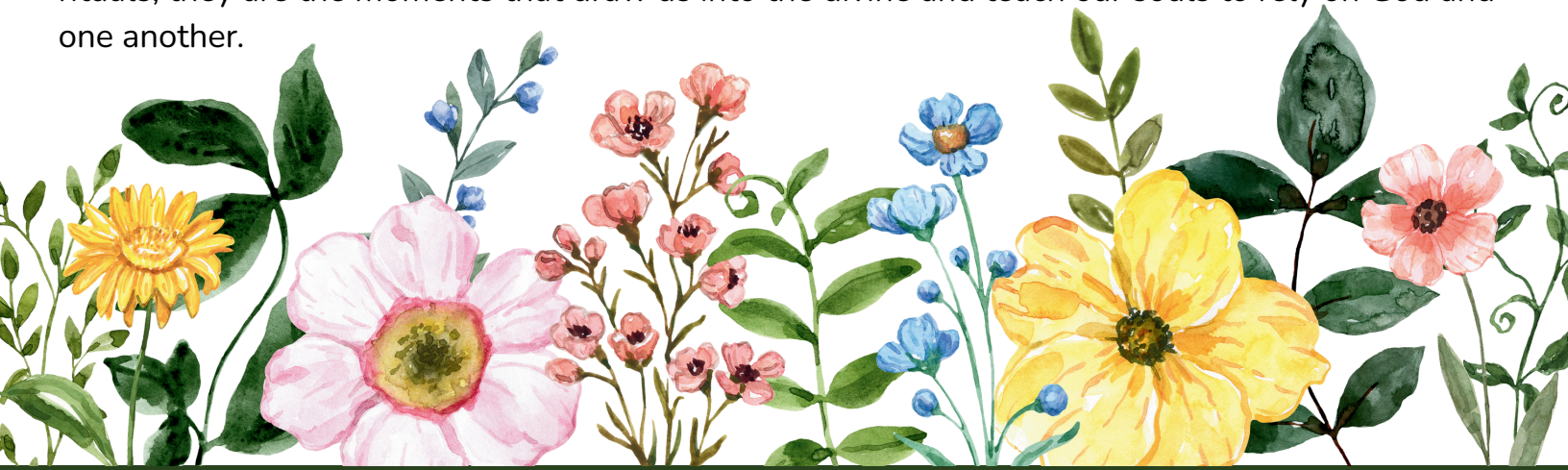
This spirit of service set the stage for Deacon Susan's sermon on the song,

***...they are the moments that draw us into the divine.***

“They’ll Know We Are Christians by Our Love.” It was perfectly fitting, as the word “maundy” comes from Christ’s mandatum—his mandate to love one another as he loved us.

Unaware of her plans, I had my own. After the altar was cleared and the church was darkened, I pulled out my ukulele to sing a slow, sober version of that very same song. Following Susan’s words, the moment felt providential. Once I finished, I blew out the one remaining candle and walked out into the night.

While it is easy to brag and say the attendance at that service rose 40% (which it did!), the true spiritual value is in the connection we experienced. These moments are more than just rites and rituals; they are the moments that draw us into the divine and teach our souls to rely on God and one another.



## Choir Dress Rehearsal Luncheon for Easter Service.



## Stations of the Cross

Deacon Susan joined St. Andrew's parishioners at Calvary Episcopal Church in Tarboro for an outdoor Stations of the Cross. Set within the historic churchyard and featuring beautiful artwork, the stations were deeply appreciated.

Participants also enjoyed viewing the stained glass windows inside the church and hearing stories about those buried in the churchyard, adding a rich sense of history to the experience. They ended their day with lunch at Agave Rosa.

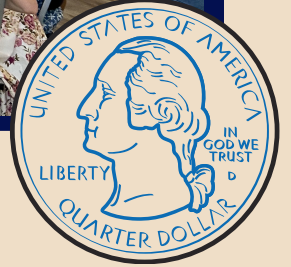


## Pillow Talk

Maria Elfaysal and Silvia Castaneda joined Deacon Susan on Sunday for a meaningful "Pillow Talk" presentation about our local migrant workers.

There's still time to participate—bring your pillows! Forty-six have already been collected, but we need 100 to "Pillow the Priest!"





## Preschool Quarter Auction

OUR 2026 QUARTER AUCTION WAS A SUCCESS!

We had 185 donations of certificates and items of all kinds! Thank you to the church for allowing us to host this wonderful, fun event! Thank you to the church members that donated items, purchased tickets and helped us raise money! We were able to utilize our new choral risers by putting the items on them for auction. It was a fun night we all look forward to.



# May 2026

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1	2 Men's Club 8am
3	8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel	4 St. Elizabeth's Guild 12pm	5 Food Pantry 9-11am	6 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	7 Food Pantry 9-11am	8	9
10	8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel	11	12 Food Pantry 9-10am Book Club 10am ADK 4pm Vestry 6pm	13 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	14 Food Pantry 9-11am	15	16
17	8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II <b>Youth Sunday</b>	18	19 Food Pantry 9-11am Finance 6:30pm	20 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	21 Food Pantry 9-11am Meals on Wheels 10am	22	23
24	8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel	25 Office Closed	26 Food Pantry 9-11am ADK 4pm	27 Food Pantry 9- 10:30am Healing Service 10:30am	28 Food Pantry 9-11am Outreach 6:30pm	29	30
31	8:00am HE Rite I 9:15am A.C.E 10:30am HE Rite II Children's Chapel						



## Ministry Schedule May 2026

### LAY/LEM Readers

#### May 3

8:00 Virgil Evans  
Brian Westcott

10:30 Paul Stone  
Lisa Stone  
Elizabeth Pope

#### May 10

8:00 Albert Corinth  
Tim Knapp

10:30 Brad Earle  
Martha Lamm  
Sandy Suggs

#### May 17

8:00 Dick Arnow  
Pam Parker-Collwood

10:30 Brandon Rollings  
Michele Richwalski  
Forrest Mericle

#### May 24

8:00 Matt Smith  
Ramona Orzell

10:30 Pete Roy  
Omari Ansong  
Lisa Stone

#### May 31

8:00 George Earp  
Pam Parker-Collwood

10:30 Paul Stone  
Elizabeth Pope  
Martha Lamm

### Acolytes

#### May 3

10:30 Walker Wells  
Jack Lea

#### May 10

10:30 Lauren Renck  
Megan Renck

#### May 17

10:30 The Mericles

#### May 24

10:30 Landon Newcomb  
Liam Jenkins

#### May 31

10:30 Walker Wells  
Jack Lea

### Ushers

#### May 3

Jan Arnold  
John Lea

#### May 10

Angela Reid  
Tom Jenkins

#### May 17

Billy Suggs  
Steve Thurkill

#### May 24

Dan Melnyk  
Don Mucci

#### May 31

Brad Earle  
Skip Partington

### Vestry Greeters

Helen Galligan  
TBD

### Kitchen Clean Up:

Preschool

### Pantry Distributers

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

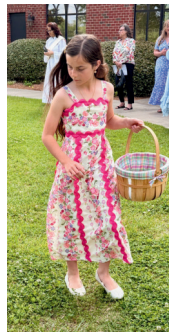
### Pantry Volunteers

Rita Coggins  
Rosemary Clark  
Missy Fillietez

# He Is Risen

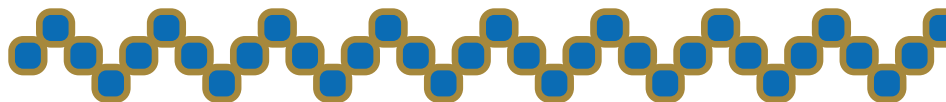
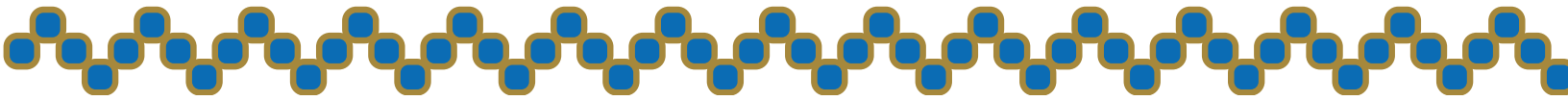


Virgil Evans read the Easter Story to the children before everyone headed out to the side lawn for the Easter Egg Hunt.



Decorating the flower cross

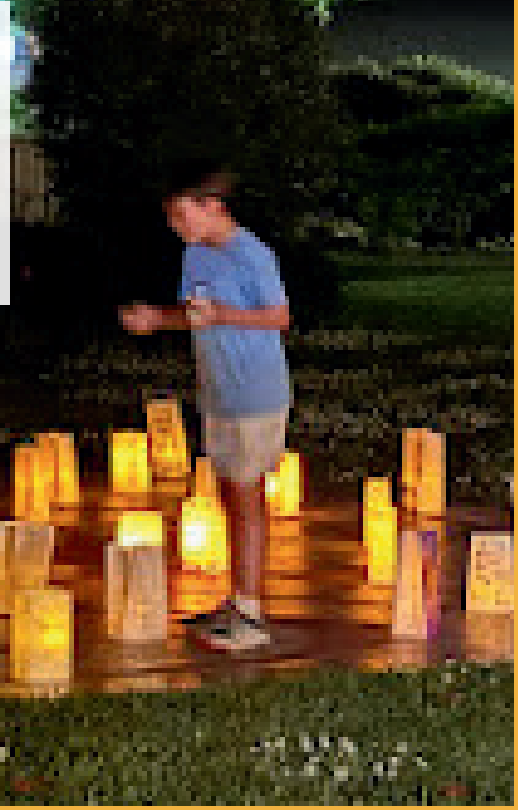




# BAPTISMAL COVENANT RETREAT 2026

April 24-25, 2025

St. Andrew's was honored to host the Rocky Mount Convocation Youth Retreat this past weekend, welcoming youth and adult leaders from across the convocation. This meaningful event was a collaborative effort involving St. Timothy's and Guadalupana in Wilson, Calvary in Tarboro, and Good Shepherd and St. Andrew's in Rocky Mount. The weekend culminated in a Closing Eucharist, celebrated with youth and their families—a meaningful and joyful conclusion to a retreat filled with faith, fellowship, and service. We give thanks to all who helped plan, lead, and participate in this special event!



# Children's Ministry



Children's Chapel is a joyful and growing part of our church, where kids learn about God's love through stories, songs, and hands-on activities. Each week, we create a welcoming space where children can build friendships, explore their faith, and feel a true sense of belonging. We are always looking for caring and loving volunteers to help support this ministry- whether by teaching, assisting, or simply offering a warm presence. If you have a heart for children and a desire to serve, we would love for you to be part of what God is doing in the lives of our youngest members. Please speak to Lora Pons to find out how you can serve!



With that being said, we have had a wonderful start to spring! We had our first Crayon Covenant meeting with Martha Lamm, where we made turtles out of stones. Virgil Evans read the Easter story to the children on Easter morning. We had a fun Easter egg hunt followed by sweet conversations about Jesus, and we got to explore the story of "doubtful Thomas" with Shannon Bertrand! Thank you all for your service to this ministry.



## Upcoming Events

**Crayon Covenant**- Martha Lamm and Lora Pons will be leading children's crafts after the 10:30 service once a month. The next one will be May 31<sup>st</sup> and we will be making stepping stones.

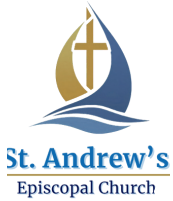
**Youth Sunday**- May 17<sup>th</sup> the youth and kids will be running the show! This will be during the 10:30 service. Let Deacon Susan or Lora know if your child would like to participate if you have not already.



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



Lora Pons



# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



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*Return Service Requested*

## Our Parish Family



### Outdoor Service

May 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am  
Meet out on the side lawn. Lunch following the services provided by the Men's Club.

### Youth Sunday

May 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am service

**Church Office Closed May 25<sup>th</sup> for Memorial Day**

**Men's Club** meets Saturday, May 2nd at 8am in the Parish Hall.

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

St. Elizabeth's Guild invites their church family to their 3rd annual Tea Party on May 4, 2026 in the Parish Hall at 12:00pm.  
Please bring a tea cup or one will be provided. wear a hat if you have one, wearing gloves is optional.  
Come and enjoy the fellowship, wonderful food and LOTS OF LOVE.

May's Wing's of Love Ministry will be for the Lighthouse Home. A residential facility for women who are in transition and need a place to call home as they work towards the next chapter in their lives.



Book Club is reading The Correspondant by Virginia Evans. We look forward to seeing everyone April 14th at 10am in the Parlor Room to discuss!

