

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

www.standrewpresbyterian.org

301-223-8887



December 2024

Rooted in Love, Grounded in Grace, Growing for God

Dear Friends,

We will be looking at our mission statement for the next few months in these columns. Last month we looked at the fact that we value fellowship here at St. Andrew. Our statement begins with this intention: We intend to provide opportunities for people to know and care for one another.

The next intention is this: Worship and celebrate life in ways that are meaningful and satisfying, and which glorify God. We have declared that one of our intentions is to make worship central to who we are as the people of God.

Worship is defined as giving God what is due to Him. Worship is the act of acknowledging that God is the author of life, that God is the one who continues life, and it is God who will save us from the destructive nature of this world. As such, we need to lift the name of God and Jesus in our individual lives and in our corporate lives.

Individually, we ask that the people of the church make living as a disciple a priority. This is done through the call to be stewards, to read your Bibles, to attend Bible Study, and of course through fellowship.

Corporately, we provide a variety of worship experiences. When one thinks about worship, the thought is corporate worship but in reality, corporate worship is the beginning of true worship of God. We gather in the name of Jesus, anticipating His presence, and then call upon God to bless us with the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. In our worship, we share Scripture, hymns, a creed, and the exposition of Scripture known as the preaching. All of these are to call a person not only deeper into their faith but also to assist them along this journey of faith.

Corporate worship allows a person to know that they are not alone in this walk of faith, that there are others who can help with giving God His due. We intentionally provide worship so that every moment can be an act of worship.

As we worship together, we demonstrate to the world that we are rooted in love, grounded in grace, and thus growing for God.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Mark



St. Andrew Gift Card Fundraiser

Martin's/Weis Grocery Gift Cards:

Do you or someone you know shop at Martin's, Giant, and/or Weis grocery store?

- Consider purchasing gift cards to:
- Use weekly to purchase groceries.
- Help a family in need.
- Place inside of a gift card holder.
- Use as a stocking stuffer.

**Martin's gift cards can be used at a Giant grocery store.

Stacy MacMillan and/or Mo Theriault will be available to purchase gift cards after the 8:30 a.m and before the 11:00 a.m. services.

Denominations: Weis \$25, \$50, \$100. Martin's \$25, \$50, \$100, \$250.

Thank you for helping St. Andrew!



Adult Christmas Party

Come and join us Monday, December 9, 6:00 pm for our Annual Adult Christmas Party. Please bring a wrapped gift of approximately \$10.00 (no gag gifts please). Also bring a finger food to share.

We will begin the evening enjoying lots of great snacks and appetizers. At 6:30 we will begin our Christmas exchange. If you have never joined us before, come and find out how much fun we have exchanging gifts all evening. Please sign up if you plan on attending.



Holly Place

Holly Place was established to target low-income seniors with limited resources who could not afford alternative care systems.

The Presbyterian Women support Holly Place as one of our local missions.

Holly Place Wish List

This is an updated list of items Holly Place needs. The Presbyterian Women collect items each month and deliver them to Holly Place. There is a featured item each month, but you can donate anything on this list at any time. Please place your donations in the tub located in the lobby labeled Holly Place. Thank you for your generosity.

- December—Dryer Sheets
- January—Air Freshener
- February—Storage Bags, Gal. & Qt. Size
- March -Dishwasher Detergent
- April -Trash Bags (13 & 33 Gal.)
- May -Furniture Polish
- June -Floor Cleaner
- July Batteries -(AAA, AA, 9V)
- August -Aluminum Foil



Helping Hands

Our last Helping Hands for the year will be on **Thursday, December 5**, from **10:00-noon**. Lunch will be provided for everyone that day.

Treasurer's Report

	<u>General Fund</u>
October Income	\$ 35,952.00
October Expenses	\$ 29,905.32
Operating Income	\$ 6,046.68



Membership Support

Experience Christmas meaningfully this year! Attend our Advent services held in our beautifully decorated church. Looking forward to the birth of Jesus, God's greatest gift to us. Participate in our Christmas events as we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus. The children enjoy a birthday party for Jesus. The Living Nativity pageant is presented as a gift for the community. The choir brings us a festive Christmas concert. There are two candlelight Christmas Eve services for your family and guests to choose from. Dates and times for these and other Christmas activities are in this newsletter. As always if needed, you may watch worship services in the Conference Room or on Facebook.

Each week and especially during Advent, we have visitors worshiping with us. Offer them the gift of a smile, words of welcome, and a visitor's bag. Encourage them to sign the fellowship pad. You may be talking to a future church member! By the way, these folks were so impressed by our friendliness and meaningful ministry they decided to join in 2024: Bill and Joyce Allen, Linda Crone, Stin Lenkerd, and Joann Parker. We will honor them at a tea during the Deacon Coffee hour in January.

Christmas Caroling

Sunday School will be hosting a caroling event on **Saturday, December 21, at Homewood**. We will be meeting at the Williamsport McDonalds at 9:15 for breakfast and then going to Homewood to go caroling to some of our friends up at Homewood. Please sign up if you are able to come. Let's share the love of Jesus to our Homewood friends. Everyone is invited! Hope you can join us!



Stewardship

A few months ago, we offered a Stewardship Game Show. We had just about everything a real game show has: an announcer, hosts, props, questions and answers and an appreciative audience. Our show was entertaining and informative, just like real game shows. The only difference was at the end of each show, a winner was not announced. For our Stewardship Game Show we have two winners: St. Andrew ministry and you, the congregation! Our ministry wins when the pledges provide money needed to fund our budget. And you win because you benefit from the ministries provided.

Thanks to all who expressed their intention to support our 2025 ministry financially and by volunteering to serve. As of the middle of November, 72 Financial Commitment (Pledge) Cards had been returned. It is not too late to respond. You may place them in the offering plate or drop them off at the church office. Your support is appreciated.



Meal Ministry

Thank you so much for people donating food to our Meal Ministry. It is so wonderful to be able to hand out a meal to those in need.

If you would like to donate to our meal ministry, please do the following:

- ** Place meal in a Tupperware container.
- ** Place a label on the meal stating what the meal is, ingredients in the meal, (for allergy concerns) and the date it was made.
- ** Place your meal (s) in the freezer on the left side.

Thank you so much for providing a wonderful meal to someone in need.



Operation Christmas Child GO Boxes are Gone

The Presbyterian Women's Operation Christmas Child team sends a joy-filled thank you to everyone who packed an OCC GO Box to send to children in 170 countries worldwide. In the last couple of years our boxes have gone to the Dominican Republic and to Tanzania. Who knows where they will go this year?

We are grateful for the time and treasure you spent to make OCC a success. Together we packed about 135 boxes (that's more than last year) filled with gifts and the love of Jesus for children from 2 to 14. We will know the official number after the newsletter goes to press.

Heartfelt thanks to the Youth Group for packing boxes again this year during their lock-in. And, for wrapping all the stuffed animals from PetSmart so that they could fit in the GO Boxes. In addition to the donation of "stuffies" from last year, PetSmart gave us additional stuffies this year to use with the Shoeboxes or other worthwhile projects. Please let us know if you want to use stuffies again next year. And if you shop at PetSmart, please let them know you appreciate their kindness.

If you donated your \$10.00 online, please let us know where your boxes went. It would be fun to see how far they traveled. Again, thank you to everyone who volunteered this year. And to those who provided boxes. It is gratifying to see the love of Christ in action at St. Andrew.

We appreciate **Mo Theriault** for coordinating this project and her sister, **Martha MacNeil** for their work in getting the boxes prepared and delivered to Tristate Fellowship

Library

Preparing for Christmas is exciting and busy! Set aside some time for these short stories.

The Christmas Kite by Gail Gayer Martin is a novel about two emotionally wounded people who find healing and love because of a special child in their lives.

Christmas Stories by Max Lucado. Ten short stories focus on characters who encounter the miracles of Christ's birth and are forever transformed.

On This Holy Night is a collection of stories by six favorite authors (Max Lucado, Rick Warren, David Jeremiah, John Maxwell, Jack Hayford, and Bill Hybels) which help readers understand how the Christmas story connects to our lives today.

The Lost Noel by Jo Ann Brown tells the story of a "living nativity" production that is experiencing a variety of strange mishaps that need to be investigated. Will they be resolved so the show can go on before Christmas?

Unafraid by Francine Rivers. A novel about Mary, the woman God choose to bear the Messiah.

Need other holiday options? Check out the library's Christmas themed shelf.

Book Club News

If you like to read and enjoy good discussion, please join us for our monthly Book Club. **We meet at 7:00 in the Friendship Hall.**

Tuesday, December 3rd we will be discussing the book, **The Armada** by Garrett Mattingly.

January's Book Club

Tuesday, January 7, 7:00 pm. We will be discussing the book, **Backstairs at the White House**, by Gwen Bagne.



Sunday School Snippets:

Here is what is happening in Sunday School:

Toddler Class: We love our little ones. We now have 2 toddlers join this class, **Luka Bearese and Alma Twum-Bariah**. As Jesus says, *“Let the little children come to me.”* and that is what we are doing. The class is studying how much Jesus loves us. They are also learning to use crayons as they do their activities.

Pre-K Class: We are learning that Jesus can do anything, Jesus loves us no matter what, and Jesus cares if we are lost. Congratulations to **Lachlan Bearese and Bryan Twum-Barimah** for memorizing their Bible verse, *“All things are possible with God.”* Mark 10:27. Both Bryan and Lachlan continue to show growth and understanding as they learn foundational concepts that grow their relationship with Jesus.

K/1st Grade: The students are learning about showing love, forgiveness and treating other well. They have been learning Bible Stories where Jesus illustrates those important qualities. Congratulations to **Michael McDonald** who participates well and to **Aiden Paul** who likes to help others.

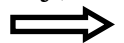
2nd & 3rd Grade: Our class has been learning how God is indeed able to save us. *“Christ Jesus Came into the world to save sinners”* (I Timothy 1:15) God saved Noah and his family from death and destruction. What’s more than this God graciously can save us from eternal death through HIS SON, Jesus Christ. We praise God for His mercy and undeserved gift of salvation. Our God is an awesome God! He wants us to follow His direction just as Abraham faithfully obeyed God. (Genesis 11:31) *Furthermore, God wants us to get along with others”* (Matthew 5:9) *“Blessed are the peacemakers.”*

As referenced in last month’s newsletter, our class has been earnestly diving deeply into the Biblical account of “Noah’s Ark.” (Genesis 6:9; 7:24 and 8:1-8:17) Diligently preparing for our upcoming finger puppet show, “Noah’s Ark” presentation. Addi and Elsie Majeski, as well as Nikolai Bearese and Thomas Twum-Barimah, Jr. have all kindly welcomed the newest member of our class, Mason Jamison. They’ve been instrumental in helping Mason to learn the story of creation (Genesis 1:1-31) Addi and Elsie Majeski have been working on an amazing “Creation Dance” to serve as a wonderful memory tool to significantly aid with recounting the days of creation. Nikolai Bearese and Thomas Twum-Barimah, Jr, have also provided Mason with excellent tips to assist in learning “The Days of Creation”. I’m above and beyond proud of you all!

4th and 5th Grade: In November we have and will be studying the following themes: God hears our prayers. In Genesis 13:12, Lot chose the fertile plains east of the Jordan River and pitched his tents near Sodom. When Sodom was destroyed, God heard Lot’s prayers and spared his family. Memory verse: *“Be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”* (Ephesians 6:18).

God keeps his promises. In Genesis 15-22, we find that God kept his promises to Abraham. Memory verse: *“Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”* (Hebrews 10:23).

God guides our everyday lives. In Genesis 24, when Isaac was 40 years old, Abraham did not want him marrying a Canaanite woman, so he sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac among their own people. It was a 450 mile trip. Immediately,





God sent Rebekah who fulfilled the test. Memory Verse: *“Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior.”* (Psalm 25:5). God helps us deal with conflict. In Genesis 26:11, during a time of famine Isaac and his wife faced many conflicts while traveling. Isaac planned to go to Egypt for help like his father before him, but he stopped at Geret. Here, Isaac lied to Abimelech, the Philistine King, telling him that Rebekah was his sister instead of his wife. God not only protected Isaac, He also blessed Isaac materially. While in Geret, all his crops, servants, flocks, and possessions were greatly increased by God. The famine was still going on and Isaac moved once to avoid conflict while in Geret. Memory verse: *“Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace.”* (Romans 14:19)

Middle School: This month we have continued on our exploration of creation and us humans. We looked at the creation of Adam and how he was made in God’s image and thus all of us are also made in God’s image. We looked at what it means to be made in God’s image and how that affects our lives. We then looked at the creation of Eve. We dove deep into what it truly means for Eve to be created as Adam’s “helper” and how this unfortunate translation has been used to discriminate against women through history. Lastly, we looked at how humans are made to be social and live in community. We talked a lot about friends and healthy relationships. Along with all of the Bible teaching, we did manage to have some fun. We played a lot of games, watched some Bible project videos, and did some thought experiments. Looking forward to Thanksgiving and Christmas. Always a fun time of year in class.

Teen Class: We are discussing the topic of fasting in all of its aspects. Learning how it can help in life and in bringing us closer to God.

Do you know your ABC’s?

Sunday School has the challenge of learning the Gospel ABC’s. This is what we have been reviewing so far:

*“**A**ll have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* Romans 3:23

*“**B**ehold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”* John 1:29

*“**C**ome to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Matthew 11:28

*“**D**raw near to God and He will draw near to you.”* James 4:8

*“**E**ven so it is not the will of your Father who is in Heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”* Matthew 18:14

*“**F**or by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not yourselves; it is the gift of God.”* Ephesians 2:6

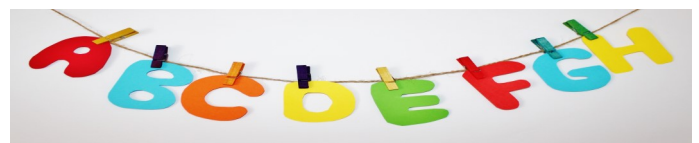
*“**G**od so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”* John 3:16

*“**H**im that cometh to Me I will in no way cast out.”* John 6:37

*“**I** am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”* John 14:6

*“**J**esus answered and said to them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent.”* John 6:29

Anyone who can recite the Gospel ABC’s will be receiving a gift card to a restaurant of their choice. Keep learning your ABC’s



Your Input is Welcome!

We welcome your input for our newsletters. Please place all submissions in the church office, by the **15th of each month.**



Congratulations

To the following students for such great Sunday School Attendance. We are so proud of you and your parents/grandparents for bringing you here each Sunday.

3 out of 4 Sundays Perfect Attendance

Toddler Class:

Alma Twum-Barimah

Pre-K Class:

Byran Twum-Barimah
Lachlan Bearse

K/1st Grace Class:

Emilia Bearese ***Michael McDonald***
Aiden Paul

2nd and 3rd Grade:

Nikolai Bearse
Thomas Twum-Barimah

4th & 5th Grade:

Alexina Twum-Barimah

6th-8th Grade:

Lily South ***Natalie Farioli***
Anne McDonald

9th-12th Grade:

Abby Boppe
Logan Farioli
Brody Hemphill
Jeremy Hemphill
Grace McDonald



In case of an emergency

There are two exits from the sanctuary. One is the door at the back of the sanctuary and the other is the door on the left at the front of the sanctuary.

Why Sunday School is Important

Each month we will be featuring why Sunday School is so important in our lives. This information is written by Rodney L. Pry, the Director of the PA State Sunday School Association. He wrote a pamphlet on **27 Reasons You Should Attend Sunday School.**

This month we will be focusing on how **Sunday School Shows Us Examples And Models For A Christian Life.** *Christ, who suffered for you, is your example. Follow in His steps.* (I Peter 2:21b)

Are you familiar with the "W.W.J.D.?" What Would Jesus do? Surely there is no better example or role model for anyone to follow than Jesus Christ, but still, there is a problem. What is the problem? You can't ask "What would Jesus do?" until you know what Jesus did and said. And, quite honestly, the average person out there in the world has very little knowledge about anything that Jesus ever did or said. And, without that knowledge and understanding of what Jesus was and what He did and said, how can you possibly use Him as an example to follow in your life?

But, there is a way to find out all about Jesus.. Who He is, what He did and what He said. And where can you find that information? In the Bible! And then to really understand the meaning of the Scriptures that tell us about Christ, you also need to gather together with other people of similar age and interest in Sunday School.

Using the Bible as our textbook in Sunday School, we learn about what's right and what's wrong. We see examples of people who followed God and those who rejected His leading. And, we see Jesus Christ, His life, His ministry and Way of Salvation that is available through Him. The lessons are there for each of us to learn, so please join us in Sunday School each week.



December 2024



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Open House (after both services) 6:00 pm Youth Group	2	3 7:00 pm Book Club	4	5 10 am-noon Helping Hands	6	7
8 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Noon Birthday Party for Jesus 5:00 pm Youth Group Christmas Party 6:00 pm Tony Evans Class	9 6:00 pm Adult Christmas Party	10 6:00 pm Coordinating Team Women's Bible Study 10 am & 7 pm	11 Handbell 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	12		14
15 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 4:30 pm Cantata 5:00 pm Living Nativity Practice	16 6 pm Building & Grounds 7 pm Admin	17	18 Handbell 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	19	20	21 9:15 Caroling, begins at McDonald's 6 pm & 7pm Living Nativity
22 8:30 am Worship 9:30 Coffee Hour 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 6 pm & 7pm Living Nativity	23	24 5:00 & 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Services	25 Merry Christmas!	26 —Pastor—	27 —Mark—	28 — and —
29 10:00 am Worship — Annette —	30 5:30 Supper Club —Vacation—	31				



Supper Club

Come and join your St. Andrew family at the Western Sizzlin', **December 30th, 5:30 pm**. We'll have a great time sharing a great meal and fellowship with our church family during the holidays. Please sign up if you plan on attending.

Micah Backpack Update

All Lincolnshire students will get free breakfast and free lunch this year. In Washington County schools, there are 925 homeless or transitional housing students. Some are in tents. Micah serves 98 students at Lincolnshire (St Andrew 24 of the 98) From this year's HARC Hike, the Micah program got \$31,000! Total hike profit was \$77,000.

The Mission Committee thanks you for supporting this outreach mission.

Christmas Bazaar

It's hard to believe that our 2024 Bazaar Weekend is now behind us! And what a success it was! As of this writing, we have brought in over \$6,000, much of which will be donated to various charitable organizations. But more importantly, we have again shown the community that St. Andrew is a place of fun, fellowship, varied talents, great food, and overall, a great place to be!

"Thank You" seems inadequate to express my appreciation to all of you who were part of our success! No matter how big or small your role was in putting on this event, your participation is truly appreciated. Many varied roles were needed, including:

- ** donating items for our gift or thrift areas
- ** creating crafts at home for us to sell
- ** working tirelessly all year as part of the "bazaar crew", creating unique crafts

** running errands and/or fixing things, as needed

** publicizing our event either by distributing flyers, contacting radio stations, sharing information with a friend, or using your Facebook influence to get the word out

** helping to move tables, chairs, or signs during set-up and clean-up

** emptying boxes and setting up our displays the week prior and repacking boxes the week after

** moving items in and out of the storage shed and setting up/taking down Christmas trees

** making numerous trips up and down the stairs to bring items up from the basement, and then taking boxes back down after the event

** making soup and/or sweet treats for our bake sale, or donating food items for use by our kitchen crew

** donning a red apron (or Santa suit!) as a Bazaar Worker during the sale

** working in the kitchen to create amazing meals

Perhaps you were one of the many folks who came and purchased something from our large selection, or simply prayed for us from home. No matter what part you played, your participation was vital to our success. While our Bazaar is sponsored by the Presbyterian Women, it is truly a church-wide ministry and is a product of many people of all ages working together, each with their own talents and abilities, and ultimately, all to the Glory of God! I can't thank you enough!

As you probably already know, we have our table display in the hallway so you can continue to shop between now and Christmas. So feel free to purchase those special treasures that you may have missed the first time around! Happy shopping, and thanks again!

Blessings,
Marcia Davis, Bazaar Chair

