



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

www.standrewpresbyterian.org

301-223-8887



January 2025



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. In November, we looked at the fact that we value fellowship here at St. Andrew. In December we explored the fact that worship is to be an essential in the life of the believer. The next intention is this: Conduct an education program that helps people of all ages to increase their knowledge and understanding of faith in Jesus Christ.

We have a committee expressly designed to touch this aspect of our mission statement—The Christian Education Committee. We have two staff people whose responsibility is to foster Christian Education—The Director of Christian Education and the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator.

The Director of Christian Education oversees the various Christian Education aspects of the church such as Sunday School, Kids of the Kingdom, the Nursery, the Opening for Sunday School as well as Helping Hands, the Birthday Party for Jesus, V.B.S., Valentine's Party, Back to School Picnic and Prayer and Rally Day to name a few. Her responsibility is to touch our young people for Jesus Christ.

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator oversees Youth Group and the Young Adult Ministry. With Youth Group, they meet regularly, usually every Sunday night. They also have lock ins, retreats to Skycroft, the Mission Trip, the Easter Carnival, Youth Sunday, serving at Harvest Hoedown and the REACH shelter, the Harvest Party, and the Living Nativity. The youth program is designed to help the youth grow in their faith in a safe and vibrant way.

The Young Adult ministry is reaching out to the most diverse group in the church as the young adults vary in life situations from college to work to families. They meet periodically.

Added to this, our Pastor has regular Bible Study with the Presbyterian Women, the Presbyterian Men, as well as a spring and fall Bible Study. As we study 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



Helping Hands

Will be starting up on **Thursday, January 16, 10:00–noon**. No need to bring a sandwich, we will have a Welcome Back luncheon for everyone on that day.

Thank you!

Dear Helping Hands thank you so much for the beautiful Christmas card, message and for the gift card. You know my favorite place to shop. Thank you so much for your kindness, love and generosity. Thank you for being such a blessing to our church and to me personally. I am so blessed and appreciative. Looking forward to getting back to work with you all. Love in Christ, Annette

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?

**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!

Thank you

Thank you so much for all the people who came caroling with us on December 21st. Thank you for sharing the love and joy of Christmas with so many people.

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.

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

Communion

We will celebrate the sacrament of Communion at both services on **Sunday, January 5**.

The Presbyterian Men

The Presbyterian Men will meet again on **Tuesday, January 21**. We will have a great meal, Bible Study, fellowship as well as discuss future plans. We ask for a \$5 contribution to help offset the cost of the meal.



Membership Support

Take-aways from our Stewardship Game Show provide themes for upcoming articles:

“Start with prayer and reflect on the blessings of your life.” What a great resolution/goal for a new year!

Blessings include being part of our active ministry and caring church family. You are encouraged to participate in your usual events and to pray about getting involved with something new.

You’ve warmly welcomed visitors and inviting them to attend Sunday School or coffee hours. Because they were blessed by your friendliness, five folks became members during 2024 and will be honored at the **New Member Reception during the coffee hour on January 19.**

If you are unable to attend church, stay involved through the St. Andrew website at standrewpresbyterian.org. Watch worship services and Bible study on Facebook and view the church calendar, newsletter, and photo gallery. You can also donate through our website’s Tithley account.



Pop Top Tabs

One way to bring blessings to others is by collecting tabs from soda cans, soup cans, and other similar items. The tabs are recycled and the proceeds are sent to Ronald McDonald House charities. Please add your tabs to the jar in the parlor and continue to support this worthy project. Thanks!

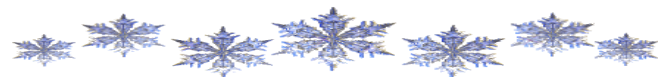
Stewardship

The prayerful commitments made during our stewardship drive are now in place.

Our ministry will be blessed by your time and talents when you attend a Sunday School class or Bible Studies, join a choir, help with Children’s ministry, support our outreach projects, help in the kitchen, or get involved in other ways.

St. Andrew is blessed by your finances, both pledged commitments and “unplugged” offerings, that support our ministry throughout the year. There were a total of 76 pledges for the budget year 2025. “Every pledge matters and every pledge counts”. As we faithfully move forward through the coming year, we know God will provide what we need thanks to your continued generosity.

So as the new year begins, let us start with prayer and reflect on the blessings St. Andrew brings to our lives. Let’s resolve to provide support however we can.



The Winter/Spring Bible Study

Will begin on **Thursday, January 16, at 7:00 pm in the Legacy Hall.** We will explore how the Bible was constructed, the history of the Bible, as well as how to read the various sections of the Bible. **All are welcome!**

Sunday Night Classes

Will start back up on **Sunday, January 19th, from 6-8 pm** Watch your bulletin for further details. Please sign up if you plan on attending.



Library

Each book highlighted for January focuses on new beginnings and how God is present in their lives.

The Hiding Place by Corrie ten Boom is her incredible true story of how faith, hope, and forgiveness triumphed over unthinkable evil during World War II.

In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do? by Charles Sheldon offers a inspiring, thought-provoking, and challenging story. The pastor of a church challenges his congregation to not do anything for a whole year without first asking: What Would Jesus Do.

Daughter of Grace by Michael Philips and Judith Pella. Book 2 in a series about the Hollister family is full of ways God can work in our lives if we will trust Him.

The Gathering Dawn by Sally Laity and Dianna Crawford. Seeking a new life in the Colonies, strangers experience the drama of war, convinced that God caused their paths to cross.

The Shining Badge, 1931 by Gilbert Morris. The story shows how Christian values help families through their struggles during the depression years.

January's Book Club

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

Supper Club

Come and join your St. Andrew family for our monthly Supper Club at the **Western Sizzlin' on Monday, January 27th, 5:30 pm.** This is always a wonderful evening filled with great food and fellowship. Sign up in the parlor if you plan on attending.

Friday Potluck with Friends

Join us **Friday, January 17, 2025**, bring a Potluck Dish, fellowship with friends, and enjoy a program brought to you by Mae Colon with the Hope Center.

The Hope center serves the Hagerstown, Maryland community by offering food assistance, men's emergency shelter, men's life recovery program, youth and children's programs, and more. Since 1955, they have done this to show our community the love of Jesus Christ. With the support of our community, we create lasting change for the men, women and children in Hagerstown experiencing poverty, hunger and homelessness

Thank you!

Dear St. Andrew:

We appreciate your generosity and will always remember the numerous acts of kindness you have extended to baby Stella and our family! Your support, encouraging words, and thoughtful actions meant a great deal to us. We are very blessed to be part of such a wonderful church family. In the spirit of the apostle Paul, "*I thank God through Jesus Christ for you.*" (Romans 1:8)

Your kindness reflects the love that we are called to share with one another. We look forward to cherishing these special memories and the bonds which have formed. Thank you again, we are deeply grateful for the love and care you have shown.

Blessings,
The McDonald Family

Treasurer's Report

	<u>General Fund</u>
November Income	\$ 43,980.33
November Expenses	\$ 35,600.90
Operating Income	\$ 8,379.43



Sunday School Snippets:

Here is what is happening in Sunday School:

Toddler Class: The toddlers have been learning of the importance of Angels in the story of the birth of Jesus. Congratulations to **Alma Twun-Barimah** for having perfect attendance in the month of November.

Pre-K Class: In November the students learned about thankfulness and praising God. They also learned the story of Creation. They ended up the month of November by learning that *all things are possible with God*. Mark 10:27. The month of December the students have been learning the Christmas story as told in Luke chapter 2. The students have acted out Mary and Joseph's feeling before and after the birth of Jesus. Congratulations to **Bryan Twum-Barimah** and **Lachlan Bearese** for memorizing all the Bible verses. Congratulations to both of you. We are so proud of you! "*All things are possible with God.*" Mark 19:27. *God saw all that He had made, and it was very good.*" Genesis 1:31. "*A Savior has been born.*" Luke 2:11

K/1st Grade:

2nd & 3rd Grade: Our class is so very grateful to God, for not only showing that He steadfastly keeps His promises, He moreover faithfully and wondrously fulfilled. His promise to send us a Savior, Jesus Christ! "*The Lord is trustworthy in all He promised and faithful in all He does.*" Psalm 145:13 As foretold by the prophets, Isaiah 9:6. "*For unto us a son is given*" How extraordinarily marvelous it is that Jesus is both God and human? Our majestic Savior Jesus Christ, is most assuredly worthy of our utmost sincere worship and praise. "*so the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.*" Luke 1:35. "*She will give birth to a son and you are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins*" (Matthew 1:21) We have also been studying Luke 2:1-20 Luke's account of the Good News of Jesus birth. "*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord.*" (Luke 2:11) Praise be to our Father in Heaven, we can now boldly proclaim the Good News far and wide, that Jesus is indeed God's promised Savior.

It is with immense joy, that I share how very proud I am of our class in its entirety.


Addi Majeski, on that of her own accord wrote the following heartfelt poem:

Jesus in Heaven above, I love Him, He loves me, He loves my mom, dad and sister. And most of all, He loves the world.

Elsie Majeski, so astutely shared her father's expiatory break down of the Biblically based origin in regards to the "X" as found in the word, "X-mas". In Greek the original language of the New Testament, the word "Christ" as translated from the Greek language into English, begins with the Greek alphabet letter "X". (X=chi Sounds like "kigh" precise Greek (English). Details to follow in next month's newsletter... essentially explaining how wishing one a Merry X-mas in actuality does not take "Christ" our of Christmas" stay tuned. In addition to **Thomas Twun-Barimah Jr's** talented depiction of many of God's amazing animal creations he impressively so asks many insightful questions. i.e. as our class was learning about the "Days of Creations", Thomas asked if God created amphibians on Day 5, when He created sea animals or day 6, when He created land animals, to which **Nikolai Bearese** perceptively proposed, that possibly God made amphibians on day 5, while on day 6 He moreover gave them the ability to be land animals, as well. Our class learned that the true meaning of Christmas, the celebration of the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ is LOVE; God is Love (I John 4:8). Our classmate **Mason Jamison** explained how Jesus is the reason for the season... it is more than presents by the tree for us: it's the wonderful gift of Jesus. Amen

4th and 5th Grade: In December we studied the following themes:

Christ's birth was promised long ago. In Micah, Isaiah, and many other OT books, Christ's birth was promised. From the time of Abraham to Jesus' birth Israel had waited over 2,000 years for the Messiah. The prophet Isaiah prophesied 700 years before Christ's birth. Memory verse: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*" (John 1:1).

We Can Follow God's plan. In Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 1:26-38 we are told that 



The angel Gabriel visited Mary to let her know that God had chosen her to be the mother of God's son-Jesus our Savior and the Messiah. Gabriel also told Mary that she was highly favored. Memory verse: *"Teach me to do your will for you are my God."* (Psalm 143:10).

We celebrate Jesus' birth. As we draw close to Christmas we study and celebrate the events around Christ's birth found in Luke 2:1-20. Memory Verse: *"Today we celebrate Jesus' birth."* (Luke 2:11).

We can accept God's amazing gift. In Luke 2:21-38 the Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die before seeing the Christ. Anna was a widow and prophetess who served God in the temple with fasting and prayer day and night. She knew who Jesus was and joyfully told others. Both Simeon and Anna had longed for the coming of God's salvation and redemption and found it in the gift of God's son, Jesus." Memory Verse: *"For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."* (John 3:16)

Middle School: This month we looked at some pretty deep subjects. Sin, Fairness, Trust, and Pride. First we looked at sin and what it is. How GOD sees sin and how we as humans and our societies see sin. The class made a list of all the sins they could think of and then ranked them from worst to not so bad. Fascinating list! We looked at fairness and why we feel being fair is so important and how GOD feels about fairness. We played some games that were designed to be not so fair and explored how the class felt about playing and the results. We looked at Trust and how we as humans struggle with being trustworthy and also being trusting. We talked about needing someone in our lives we can always trust as a basic need. Then how blessed we are to know that our GOD can fill that need and we don't have to totally rely on people or things. Lastly we looked at Pride. The class built a tower of Babel that had to withstand GOD's judgement. Basically, me being GOD and causing an earth quake in the form of a shaking table. We talked about how GOD has a tendency to humble us when our pride gets a little out of hand. Of course we played a lot of games, watched some bible project videos, and did some thought experiments. Looking forward to Christmas classes and parties. 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.

Make Sunday School a top priority in the New Year. We have amazing classes for all ages from toddler to Adults.

All classes start at 9:45. Children in grades 5 and below meet in the sanctuary from 9:45-10:00 for a brief Opening Program. At this time we say the Pledge to the Christian Flag and to the Bible. We have a devotion, a time of prayer and take up an offering. Our offering goes to support our sponsored child from Compassion International, Programs from Samaritan's Purse, and church and local needs. At 10:00 the children are dismissed to their classroom.

Parents Please Note: If your child is in Grade 3 or below, please pick them up in their classroom by 10:45.

**** 3 Adult Classes**

**** Seekers Class:** led by Pastor Mark and Hank Hemphill. This is an in depth Bible Study. They are currently studying the book of Colossians. This class meets in the Legacy Hall.

**** Parables for Today:** How did Jesus simplify complex theological concepts so that believers could live out their faith? Using parables! Parables were a go to teaching tool that Jesus used to help his followers embrace deep, spiritual truths. Parables were more than just an illustration, they are also a call to action, because once we understand the meaning behind the parables we can then apply the concepts to our own lives. Parables are just as important today, as they were in Jesus time. Join our class as we unpack the Parables and explore them in a new light. The parables are alive and well and we will use them to deepen & renew our faith. This class is taught by Pam & Jason McDonald in the Friendship Hall.

**** Voyager Class:** Has started a new study. They will be reading the book, 3:16, The Numbers of Hope by Max Lucado. All books are provided for the class member. This class meets in the Conference Room.



Congratulations

Thank you to the Parents and Grandparents who bring their child (ren) to Sunday School. Thank you for making Sunday School such a top priority. Congratulations to these kids.

3 out of 4 Sundays Perfect Attendance

Toddler Class:

Alma Twun-Barimah

Pre-K Class:

Bryan Twun-Barimah

K/1st Grace Class:

Michael McDonald

2nd and 3rd Grade:

Addi Majeski ***Mason Jamison***
Elsie Majeski ***Thomas Twun-Barimah***

4th & 5th Grade:

Alexina Twun-Barimah
Maggie Jamison

6th-8th Grade:

Anne McDonald

9th-12th Grade:

Grace McDonald
Will McKinley

Welcome Back Luncheon

All teachers are invited to a New Year's Luncheon on **January 26, noon**. Hope all teachers can attend. We will be sharing what we learned from the Sunday School Teacher's Convention that several of us attended in November.

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.**

Why Sunday School is Important Continued:

This month we will be focusing on **Through Sunday School, God's Work And God's Will Are Being Done.**

Way back in the late 1800's, John Wanamaker, the famous Philadelphia businessman, also served as Postmaster General of the United States. But the great man always found time each week to run a Sunday School with over 4,000 scholars in the City of Brotherly Love. Someone once asked Mr. Wanamaker how he found time for Sunday School and he immediately replied, "Why, the Sunday School is my business. All other things are just things. Forty-five years ago I decided God's promise was sure, *"Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."*

Why did Mr. Wanamaker feel the way that he did about Sunday School? He loved Sunday School and he loved the people who were there in Sunday School. But, even more important, he loved Jesus Christ and he realized that God's work and God's will were being done through Sunday School.

Do you love Sunday School enough to make it a priority in your week? If you really love Jesus, than hopefully you too will be able to say, like John Wanamaker, "Why Sunday School is my business!"

Congratulations to those who completed the November Word Search. Please turn into the office by **the 15th**. January Word Searches are on the table in the entryway.

Nikolai, Emilia and Lachlan Bearse
Melanie Beckley, Scott Beckley, Holly Brunner,
Kathy Carter, Kenny Carter, Cora Carson
Courtney Corkery, Janet Hiett,
Nancy Carper Hill, Melody Johnson,
Debbie Kinzer, Jill Lampton
Sandra Lunsford, Debbie McCauley
Jen Metz, Mark Mummert, Margie Reed,
Gerry Salter, Allison Yoder, Tom Young



January 2025



Happy New Year!

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>New Year's Day</i>	2	3	4
5 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Youth Communion both Services	6	7 7 pm Book Club	8 Handbell 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	9	10	11
12 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Noon Congregational Meeting 6:00 pm Youth	13 7 pm Committees	14 Women's Bible Study 10 am & 7 pm 11 am Women's Luncheon 6 pm Coordinating Team	15 Handbell 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	16 10 am –noon Helping Hands 7 pm Bible Study	17 Noon Friday Potluck with Friends	18 6:30 pm Game Night
19 8:30 am Worship 9:30 am Coffee Hour/ New Member Reception 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Youth 6:00 pm Sunday Night Class	20 6 pm Bldg/Grounds 7 pm Admin/ Deacon	21 6 pm Presbyterian Men	22 Handbell 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	23 7 pm Bible Study	24	25
26 8:30 am Worship 9:45 am Sunday School 11:00 am Worship Noon Teacher's Luncheon 6:00 pm Youth 6:00 pm Sunday Night Class	27 5:30 pm Supper Club 7:00 Session	28	29 Handbell 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm	30 7 pm Bible Study	31	



Inclement Weather Policy

If Washington County Schools are closed due to bad weather, all church activities for that day are cancelled. If the schools are delayed, daytime activities will be cancelled, but evening activities may still be on. If delayed, please call the church answering machine for details. If bad weather falls on a Sunday, listen to WCRH 90.5 radio, or call the church. Worship will still occur on Facebook live.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 12, noon. We will be covering (1) Changes to the Pastor's call (2) Elect a Nominating Committee for 2025 (3) Review budget.

Thank you!

Dear St. Andrew Family,

Thank you so much for the caroling visit. I was very surprised and it brought me lots of joy! I enjoyed seeing all of you; thank you for thinking of me. Thank you for your kindness. Much love, Diane McCracken

Meal Ministry

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated 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.

Thank You All

Who made the Living Nativity such a success. What a joy it is to be able to share the good news of the greatest birth of all times on the front lawn of our church.

Thank you to:

** **All who came and set up** December 7th. It is a lot of work setting up all the parts of the Living Nativity. Thank you for offering your services that day.

** **Chris Johnson and the Youth Group** who organized and managed all the different aspects of the Living Nativity.

** To **Jen and Gabby Johnson** who assisted in all the details of the Living Nativity.

** To the **men who helped with the parking on Saturday and Sunday night.** You braved the extremely cold weather as you helped with the parking. We are so blessed by your willingness to serve in such extremely cold weather.

** **For all who assisted with the angels** helping them get ready and helping them get in the right spot outside.

** **To all who came out to be a part of the Living Nativity.** It was extremely cold weather and we appreciated your willingness to share the good news to the community.

** To all who came out to watch our performances.

** **Most of all thank you to our Lord and Savior for leaving Heaven to become Emmanuel God with us!**



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.



St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
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