



# ST. ANDY'S REVIEW

December 28, 2023 • Vol. 69, Issue 20

## UPCOMING SERMONS

JANUARY 7

Ordination and Installation of  
Church Officers

**Pray with Purpose**

Colossians 1:9-14

JANUARY 14

**Let it Go**

Philippians 4:4-9

JANUARY 21

**What's in a Name**

Ephesians 3:14-14

JANUARY 28

**More Love, More Power**

Ephesians 3:18-19

**JANUARY  
NEWSLETTER  
DEADLINE:**

January 25, 2024

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Did you know some folks hotly debate whether “bringing in the new year” or “ringing in the new year” is the correct phrase for the end-of-year celebrations? Grammatically speaking, the “bringing” camp has the edge since we say goodbye to one year and usher in a new year. Traditionally speaking though, the “ringing” group has the edge because it is customary to ring bells at the stroke of midnight to mark the transition from one year to the next. But whether you are in the “bringing” camp or the “ringing” camp or perhaps have never even given it much thought, I propose we consider a new approach...

## PRAYING IN THE NEW YEAR!

Usually, this season is marked by saying good riddance to the previous year and hoping for a better year ahead. These hopes are often seen in New Year's resolutions and goals for self-improvement. But what if this year we started the year in prayer?

For the first six weeks of 2024, we will explore various Scriptures as we challenge ourselves to begin the year in prayer and then continue in prayer throughout the year. We will consider the ways we can commit our plans and dreams to the Lord, as well as let go of the things that hold us back from living into God's purposes for our lives. Approaching the new year this way brings to my mind Tennyson's poem *Ring Out, Wild Bells* which concludes with these words:

Ring in the valiant man and free,  
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;  
Ring out the darkness of the land,  
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Together, let us consider how we might ring out the darkness and ring in Christ in 2024!

- Pastor Tara



Jan 1 Meghan Cobb  
 Jan. 5 Cyinta Kirk  
 Jan. 5 Bobbie Wied  
 Jan. 7 Glenda Buckley  
 Jan. 7 Johnathan Thompson  
 Jan. 8 Lucille Bryan  
 Jan. 8 Susanne Nichols  
 Jan. 9 Billy Singletary  
 Jan. 10 Casey Clark  
 Jan. 13 Ava Postlewait  
 Jan. 15 Brenda Jackson  
 Jan. 17 Maida Ducote  
 Jan. 17 Kay McIlrath  
 Jan. 21 Billy Waugh  
 Jan. 25 Aaron Allen  
 Jan. 25 Sally Nichols  
 Jan. 27 Kay Long  
 Jan. 27 Jimmy Singletary  
 Jan. 28 Callie Johnson  
 Jan. 29 Ted Weitzel  
 Jan. 31 Julie Odle

## In Our Prayers

### In the Congregation

Greta Ott, Family of Brad Walker, Bob Fisher, Shelley Plunkett, Lee Plunkett, Barbara Abel, Dalton Abel, Kay Long

### Friends and Family

Mar'curia Rice, David Cobble, Karen Thompson Butler, Madeline Johnson, Val Rayzor, Mary Kennedy, Mickey Shuffield, Thomas Fisher, Jack Dillard, Erin Lenhart, Jerry Linn, Janie Niederstadt Verderame, Rachel Lawrence, Esmee Foster

## SPAGHETTI LUNCH

Join us for our next  
**Fellowship Lunch on  
 January 14, 2024.**  
 Hosted by our very  
 own Youth Group.

Don't forget to bring a friend!



## GOOD TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY



On December 10, the Golden Triangle Handbells blessed us with their gift of music to bring cheer this holiday season.



# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1. NEW YEARS Office Closed	2 10:00AM PW Coordinating 10:00AM Staff Meeting 5:30PM Fellowship Team	3 8:15AM SOP Soup Kitchen 5:30PM Handbells 6:30PM Mission & Evangelism	4 8:30AM MOW Cooks 10:00AM MOW Delivers	5	6
7 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Choir Rehearsal 12:00PM Confirmation Class 3:00PM Boy Scouts 5:00PM Youth Group	8 10:00AM Monday Group 12:00PM Rainbow Room 5:30PM SAS 6:30PM LHA	9 5:15PM SAS 6:30PM Christian Ed Team	10 9:30AM Day School Chapel 5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal 6:30PM Worship Team	11 8:30AM MOW Cooks 10:00AM MOW Delivers	12	13 8:30AM SETX Food Bank
14 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:45AM Fellowship Lunch 11:45AM Choir Rehearsal 3:00PM Boy Scouts	15 10:00AM Monday Group 5:30PM SAS 6:30PM LHA	16 5:15PM SAS 5:30PM Finance/Property Mtg 6:30PM Session Meeting	17 9:30AM Day School Chapel 5:30PM Board of Trustees 5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal	18 8:30AM MOW Cooks 10:00AM MOW Delivers	19	20
21 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Choir Rehearsal 12:00PM Deacon's Meeting 3:00PM Boy Scouts 5:00PM Youth Group	22 10:00AM Monday Group 5:30PM SAS 6:30PM LHA	23 10:00AM PW Bible Study 5:30PM SAS	24 9:30AM Day School Chapel 5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal	25 8:30AM MOW Cooks 10:00AM MOW Delivers	26	27
28 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:45AM Choir Rehearsal 3:00PM Boy Scouts 5:00PM Youth Group	29 10:00AM Monday Group 5:30PM SAS 6:30PM LHA	30 5:30PM SAS	31 9:30AM Day School Chapel 5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal			

**KEY**  
 PW = Presbyterian Women  
 SK @ SOP = Soup Kitchen at  
 Some Other Place  
 LHA = La Hacienda Alumni  
 MOW = Meals On Wheels  
 SAS = Strings after School

## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!  
WE NEED YOUR HELP!



While Rachel is on maternity leave, Pastor Tara is seeking office volunteers in the afternoons, Monday - Thursday, to answer the telephone and open the door.

If you are able to help, please contact the office at 409-892-8611

## GALE JONES FAREWELL RECEPTION



Giving a gracious thank you to all who joined in bidding farewell to Gale Jones. We wish her the best at her new home in Colorado Springs. She will be greatly missed.

## YEAR-END STATEMENTS

The church will mail final contribution statements for 2023 by the end of January.

Be on the lookout!



Join us in giving a heartfelt thank you to Lauren Sanchez and Janet Myers for their musical leadership during Thomas Furlow's leave of absence. We are grateful for their hard work, careful planning, and rehearsal from September to December.

## Church Office Closed

The office will close at 12:30PM on December 28, and will be closed all day on January 1, 2024.

**Happy New Year!**

## MOW Volunteer Needed!

The St. Andrew's Meals on Wheels program delivers hot, nutritious meals to homebound folks in Beaumont who aren't able to cook or shop for themselves. **Right now, the MOW team is in need of a driver to deliver a route on the fifth Thursday.** (This doesn't happen every month.) Delivering only takes about an hour. If you are willing and able to volunteer, contact Susan Reese or the Church Office.



# 2023 Christmas Lunch



We had a great time at our annual Christmas Luncheon. We enjoyed chicken enchilada soup, tamales, chips and dip and cookie decorating. We also stuffed stockings and made cards for Girls Haven.





## Chancel Flowers

Fresh flowers can be given for the chancel in worship on Sunday mornings in memory or honor of loved ones. A standard arrangement is \$80. If you would like to sponsor the chancel flowers, email the church office or use the flower calendar outside the main office.



## 2024 God's Creation Calendars

God's Creation Calendars are available for purchase! They cost **\$10 each**, and you can order and pick them up from the Church Office. The calendars feature beautiful color photographs and Bible verses and make great Christmas gifts for friends and family. **Only 10 calendars remain!**



## LIONS VS. CARDINALS: JANUARY 27

The Fellowship Team invites you to wear red and white and come to the Montagne Center to watch the Lamar Cardinals play the Southern Louisiana University Lions! The game is **Saturday, January 27th at 6:00 pm**. Tickets are \$10 each. It's one of the bigger games of the season, so don't miss it. Please RSVP with the number of tickets you need to the church office by January 22.

## Girls' Haven Stockings



St. Andrews Presbyterian Church had so much fun filling Christmas stockings for the residents at Girls' Haven.



# ST. ANDY'S YOUTH CHRISTMAS



It was a jolly good time of fun, fellowship, gifts, games, and food at the annual Christmas Extravaganza!





# Sunday School Sneak Peek

After our year-long **Journey through the Bible**, Sunday school classes and small groups will be starting some exciting new studies in January! Stay tuned for details on what other groups will be studying.

- **Fellowship Class**, for men and women of all ages, meets in Room 3 and will study *John Calvin: Sovereign Hope* by Carolyn Nystrom.
- **Pew Sisters Class**, for women of all ages, meets in Room 2 and will study *Traveling Light* by Max Lucado.
- **Bible Discovery Class**, for men and women of all ages, meets in the library and will study *Life Lessons from Acts*, by Max Lucado.
- The **Youth Group**, for youth grades 6-12, meets in the Youth Center at 5:00PM on Sundays. They will study *Forward Motion*, which explores what it means to follow Christ and to walk with Him daily.
- **Children's Sunday School**, for students in Pre-K through 5th grade, meets in Journey Room 304. They will study *Dig In: Heart of God*.

## 2024 Confirmation Class

Confirmation is a time for students to explore their faith and dig deeper into the Bible, church history, and Presbyterian traditions, while also growing in community with one another. When a baby is baptized in a Presbyterian Church, the parents and the whole church make vows to lovingly raise that child in the Christian faith. When a child reaches adolescence, they are provided with a period of study and intentional reflection. Confirmation is a purposeful time in which we encourage students to take ownership of their faith in hopes that they might claim Christ as their own.

The 2024 Confirmation Class will have its first class on Sunday, January 7 in the Youth Center. Students will meet monthly with Pastor Tara according to the following class schedule: **January 7, February 11, March 24, April 21, and May 5**. All classes are required and will meet 12:00PM-5:00PM. Pray for our students as they embark on this journey of faith exploration and discipleship!

## Estimate of Giving Cards

If you haven't turned in your Estimate of Giving card for 2024, it isn't too late. If you need a blank card, they are available in the Church Office. Thank you for your support!



*Save the date*

**Lenten Preaching**

**Series at St.**

**Stephen's Episcopal Church**

**February 25-26, 2024.**



**2024 St. Andrew's Handbells**



If you enjoy music and fellowship (or if you want to be in a choir but don't want to sing!), consider joining the St. Andrew's Handbell Choir in 2024. Led by Martha Giarratano, rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 5:30PM-6:30PM. The bell choir blesses the congregation in worship several times a year, especially in the Lenten and Advent seasons. Musical experience is not a requirement, but it is certainly a plus. If you have questions or would like to learn more, contact Martha or contact the Church Office.



# St. Andrew's 2024 Leadership

The new deacons, elders, and officers of St. Andrew's will be ordained and installed during worship on Sunday, January 7, 2024. We are grateful for these servants who lead by example and are willing to do so much for our church family and our community.

## DEACONS

### Class of 2024

Glenda Buckley  
Michael Dove  
Bobbie Wied

### Class of 2025

Becky Newman  
Geren Raumaker  
Billy Singletary  
Jan Waugh

### Class of 2026

Daniel Dove  
Judy Fisher  
Martha Giarrantano  
Greta Ott

## ELDERS

### Class of 2024

Emily Allen  
Becky Ford  
Julie Glenn  
Will Nichols

### Class of 2025

Dave Collins  
Jeff Newman  
Bruce Partain  
Maryann Sweeney

### Class of 2026

Brian Armstrong  
Leslie Pember  
Elizabeth Petit  
Susan Reese

## TRUSTEES

### Class of 2024

Tom Bell  
Matt Sooudi

### Class of 2025

Audrey Parigi  
Mike Petit

### Class of 2026

Ron Everett  
Howard Nichols

## FOUNDATION

### Class of 2024

Peg Towers  
Jordan Reese  
Mark Russo

### Class of 2025

Tillie Hickman  
Steve Odle  
Bob Webb

### Class of 2026

Bruce Burnside  
Brenda Jackson  
Martha Pate

## SESSION TEAMS

### CLERK OF SESSION

Bruce Partain

### TREASURER

Bruce Burnside

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Brian Armstrong  
Becky Ford

### FELLOWSHIP

Dave Collins  
Julie Glenn  
Will Nichols

### FINANCE AND PROPERTY

Jeff Newman  
Elizabeth Petit

### MISSION AND EVANGELISM

Emily Allen  
Susan Reese  
Maryann Sweeney

### OPERATIONS AND PERSONNEL

Becky Ford  
Bruce Partain

### WORSHIP

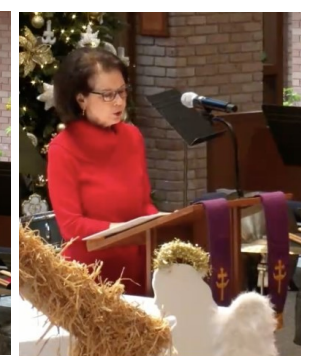
Bruce Partain  
Leslie Pember

### 1 PETER 5:2

Be shepherds of  
God's flock  
that is under  
your care,  
watching over them

# Christmas Eve Worship

In the morning we gathered for a service of lessons and carols with Turner Partain on violin. Pastor Tara introduced the children to the Christmas pickle and reminded us to celebrate Jesus and share His love.





# At St. Andrews

Our evening candlelight service featured beautiful music and a reminder to make room for Jesus in our lives. The children also received Christmas mice to remember the lesson of *Mortimer's Christmas Manger*.

