

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

2021 Parish Profile



Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at St. Andrew's.

Website: www.standrewschesco.org

Welcome to St. Andrew's

Our Mission

St. Andrew's is a joyful community of God's faithful people transforming lives by growing in Christ's love and shining His light into the world through prayer, worship and service to all.

Our Vision

To be a beacon in the community, calling our members and our neighbors to:

Worship – Giving thanks for Christ's Love

Education – Learning about Christ's Love

Leadership – Demonstrating Christ's Love

Community – Coming together in Christ's Love

Outreach – Serving others through Christ's Love

Music – Glorifying Christ's Love

Evangelism – Spreading Christ's Love

Stewardship – Responding to Christ's Love

Introduction



During the fall of 2021, the congregation was surveyed to better identify the challenges, opportunities and goals for St. Andrew’s as a church community moving forward. The above word cloud reflects the responses when asked to list words that best describe our loving community. This artwork embodies the true essence of who we are. We invite you to continue reading and learn about St. Andrew’s, a “joyful community of God’s faithful people.”

The Story of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

THE EARLY YEARS

The story of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church begins in November of 1832, when neighbors met at the house of Jacob Ludwig to discuss formation of a new church in the area. Under the influence



Photo courtesy of Chester County Historical Society

of the Rev. Levi Bull, an Episcopalian evangelist and church builder, an Episcopal congregation was formed. The first rector, the Reverend Cyrus Jacobs, baptized 37 adults and seven infants. After Jacobs returned to Virginia in 1836, St. Andrew's began to decline. Between 1836 and 1920, St. Andrew's struggled to remain open, and in 1920, the church was closed again, apparently forever.

THE REBUILDING OF OUR CHURCH

Protected by its isolation and by a small endowment for its maintenance, the church building survived. Then, in 1950, a group of area residents petitioned the bishop to reopen the church and with the help of the Rev. Croswell McBee and the support of Owen J. Roberts, retired Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, St. Andrew's was reopened, reincorporated, and restored. In 1953, the Rev. Kenneth C. Werner began service that was to last more than 30 years.

Under his care, St. Andrew's flourished, with membership rising from four communicants in 1950 to 210 in 1956. When the Rev. Werner retired in 1984, the Rev. Dr. Joseph T. Rivers was chosen to replace him. Arriving in 1985, the Rev. Rivers expanded use of the new prayer book, introduced the new hymnal, increased the frequency of Eucharist and added children's sermons.



In November 1995, The Rev. Elsa Hale Mintz arrived after answering St. Andrew's call to become rector. As the population in Chester County began to grow in the mid-1990s, so did the congregation, outgrowing its capacity of 120 seats. In 2008, the congregation agreed to expand the original church just as we were celebrating the 175th Anniversary. In June 2010, the first

service was held in the new space. Adding onto the historic church meant ensuring the integrity of the Colonial Greek Revival architecture and the look and design of the existing 175-year-old box pews, Caribbean tray ceiling and theater-style sloping floor. The new addition provides additional seating for 100, an expanded narthex, a large side hallway, an updated electrical and sound



system and a tall illuminated lantern that, when lit, can be seen by the church's neighbors. In April 2015, after 20 years of loving and dedicated service, the Rev. Elsa Hale Mintz retired. After a period of reflection and discernment, and led by Interim Rector, The Rev. Robert C. Smith, St. Andrew's called the Rev. Tommy Thompson to be its next Rector in August 2016, and Father Tommy was ordained into the Episcopal Ministry on December 11, 2016 at St. Andrew's. The last five years have been one of transition, and at times conflict, as a more "high" church style of worship was implemented, a choral scholar program was initiated, and the long-time Director of Children & Youth Ministries retired. Under Rev. Thompson, adult Christian education gained momentum and the church's technology capabilities were enhanced. In November 2020, after a difficult period of navigating the Covid-19 pandemic, the Rev. Tommy Thompson answered the call to be the next Rector of Washington Memorial Chapel in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Currently, the Rev. Benjamin Capps is our Interim Priest-in-Charge and has worked diligently to renew our sense of community and restore an energy to our congregation.

St. Andrew's has strengthened and struggled, been shuttered and resurrected, and is today looking to a bright future built on a historic past.

Who We Are Today

St. Andrew's is a vibrant and welcoming community located at Ludwig's Corner in Glenmoore, PA. Our parish is a mix of seniors, younger families and parishioners with grown children. With three paid part-time staff members we average nearly 100 members at weekly Sunday services. As parishioners become more comfortable attending church after the Covid-19 pandemic, we expect those numbers to increase.

As our bulletin states: *Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at St. Andrew's.* Our loving community is filled with a mosaic of people with different backgrounds and talents, each of whom makes our community richer. One of St. Andrew's unique qualities is the strong sense of community and the willingness of our members to lend a helping hand, whether that be through involvement in one or more of the church's ministries or donating items for one of our many outreach collections.

The true soul of our church is reflected in the St. Andrew's Prayer which we pray together each Sunday:

Almighty God, giver of all good things, grant that our joyful community of St. Andrew's may ever continue to grow in Christ's love. Guide us to strengthen our ministries, empower us to welcome our neighbors and shine your light into the world through prayer, worship and service. This we pray in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Our weekly Sunday worship services, with traditional liturgy, readings, sermon and Holy Eucharist, are at the core of our mission.

St. Andrew's offers two traditional Sunday worship services. The 8:00 a.m. Rite I spoken Holy Eucharist is a quiet, more reflective service with a faithful group of "eight o'clockers." The 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist service follows Rite II with hymns and service music. Occasionally, we offer outdoor services in the yard when weather is particularly nice. As needed, the church is equipped with livestream technology to stream services through our Facebook page. For most of St. Andrew's history, our worship style was that of a simple country church—what some would classify as "low church." Under the Rev. Tommy Thompson we tried more of a "high church" style. Although this style brought some new parishioners to the church and was liked by some, it was not well received by many of the parishioners. This caused some conflict with the priest and between parishioners.

Over the past year, and through discussions with the parishioners, our worship style has slowly and with purpose reverted back to a combination of styles that all could enjoy. Today, the church pews have become alive again with both new and old attending.



Between the two services, the church is filled with activity: Adult Choir practices, adult forums and committee meetings. Church school meets during the 10:00 a.m. service, and the children join the service after the Offertory to fully participate in the Eucharist. Many newcomers say they come because of the

worship and stay because of the friendliness of the congregation. The church school year concludes with a celebratory Children's Day service, with the children leading us in all aspects of worship.

The congregation actively participates in all facets of worship. The dedicated ladies of the Altar Guild prepare the altar and decorate the church beautifully for Christmas and Easter. After a brief absence, our youth currently serve as acolytes throughout the year at the 10:00 a.m. service and at special services. Our ushers welcome all who come to worship with us, and lay readers and chalice bearers serve as liturgical ministers.

From the year 2020 into 2021, St. Andrew's charted a new course in its long historical existence which was forced upon us due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Following Bishop Gutierrez's Philadelphia Diocesan guidelines, there were only three persons allowed in the church to perform the Sunday morning service - the Priest/Celebrant, the Lay Eucharistic Minister and the Camera/Sound specialist. All wore masks and maintained an area of distance apart. The service was live-streamed and the organ music and singing was done from remote locations. For the home viewers it was a seamless production! We gradually went to allowing the organist and two singers into the church along with 25 parishioners. All were masked, maintained distance, and gave their names and contact numbers for Covid-19 tracing. We then moved to doing an 8:00 a.m. service (in-person) and a 10:00 a.m. service (in-person and live-streamed). We were actually able to hold three funeral services within the past year!

A broad complement of technology changes and safety measures were put into place orchestrated by Rev. Tommy Thompson followed by Rev. Ben Capps, the Vestry, and volunteer parishioners. The comfort and safety of our members was of the utmost importance to the governing body of St. Andrew's and we all worked toward the goal of keeping safely engaged with our members without diminishing the beauty of our worship services.

Music plays an important role in life at St. Andrew's, and the beautiful and inspirational music enhances our spiritual experience, and allows our members to share their talents in a fun and enjoyable framework. From a historical perspective this has included both a children's and adult choir. Led by our talented interim organist and choirmaster, Dr. Nathan Zullinger, our Adult Choir and at times instrumentalists (including a kilted bagpiper for St. Andrew's Day!) enrich our worship services with a diverse selection of hymns and music.



Over the last few years, a music grant was provided to the church to support a choral scholar program. This entailed having individuals, attending a local college and pursuing their vocal aspirations in a music program, join with our choir to enhance the liturgical services. This typically involved four individuals which covered the bass, tenor, alto, and soprano parts. Special programs have also occurred in which these individuals shared their beautiful God-given talents. The grant money for this program allowed us to initiate the program after which the church would provide financial support to the program moving forward.

Covid-19 had a substantial impact on the church as a whole and the music program was greatly diminished. Although the collective choir could not meet during this time, the organist and at least one of the choral scholars provided an uplifting musical backdrop for the "live stream" services. Coming out of Covid-19, we could not sustain the choral scholar program, plus some choir members preferred to sing without paid singers. Moving forward this fall, our parishioner-filled music programs have resumed with plans to revive the children's choir for Christmas.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Our Christian Education program is led by a dedicated group of teachers who have created a cohesive and unparalleled Christian Education program. St. Andrew's is a family-oriented church and places great value on educating our children in the teachings of the Bible and providing them with a foundation of faith.

The core of our ministry to children and youth is our dynamic Sunday morning education program. Classes are offered for all children from age four through the end of high school, with nursery staff caring for our youngest throughout the 10:00 a.m. service.



Every two years, we hold a confirmation class for our youth in 9th grade and above. This year we have 10 committed youth engaged in the confirmation process, led by Rev. Ben and supported by our Vestry Liaison for Children & Youth Ministries and 10 mentors.

Over 30 children from pre-school through high school are enrolled in Church School. Supporting our Christian Education program are 10 dedicated adult volunteers who generously give of their time to educate our youth. In the past, we have employed a Director of Children & Youth Ministries and one of our future goals is to support the return of this position.



In addition to the weekly Sunday school classes, our children are involved in a number of other activities, including outreach-focused events.

In the past we have regularly held youth group events, but with our youth attending multiple schools, it has become more difficult to schedule events around the myriad of activities that

compete for our youths' time. Even though there is not an established Youth Group, we look to bring them together for youth-focused fellowship such as a Christmas cookie bake, movies and Outreach activities.

St. Andrew's had previously held a very successful VBS for over 15 years. Once Covid-19 protocols subside, we will look to reinstating this wonderful program that shares the word of God with families and children beyond our parish.

Christian Education for adults is equally important and has grown over the past five years. Opportunities are offered throughout the year ranging from church-wide adult programs to small group bible studies, and more. We explore a variety of topics, all with the goal of deepening our faith and understanding of the Bible. We also recognize adults have full schedules, so we try to make these opportunities as easy as possible for people to participate.

OUTREACH

St. Andrew's level of outreach, for a parish our size, is remarkable and a source of great inspiration and pride. The Mission and Outreach Committee supports a variety of organizations locally, regionally and globally. While our budgeted amount for outreach has remained fairly static, each year our entire parish is more and more generous with the items collected for local organizations. Some highlights include:

- Partnering with Chester County Food Bank to create a community garden resulting in the provision of fresh produce each year to those in need. Ongoing collections for the Coventry Food Pantry and The Clinic in Phoenixville.





- Annually, the makings for complete Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving dinners are provided to 10 families in transition from domestic strife and/or homelessness.

- Providing, Christmas gifts to disadvantaged children in conjunction with Trinity Episcopal Church in Coatesville (a nearby urban community). Our giving tree has become an important part of our Advent preparation.



- Preparing and serving a hearty meal to the men at the Atkinson Center Men's Shelter each month.

As we prepare for the future, we are seeking opportunities to share Christ's love and care for our neighbors by increasing our reach into the community, while continuing to provide donations of needed items and financial support.

OUTREACH BY CHILDREN & YOUTH



Outreach is also a major focus of the ministry of our children and youth.

- Our youngest children trick or treat for UNICEF and collect food for the Coventry Food Pantry.



- Our middle and high school youth cook and serve food to the men at the Atkinson Men’s Shelter and collect money and soup on “Souper” Bowl Sunday for the Coventry Food Pantry.
- Biannually, our confirmation group also selects an outreach project and raises money from the parishioners to reach its goal.

We are working to increase the community giving opportunities for our children and youth and have purposefully added in some new Outreach programs this year, as well as involving them more in our on-going programs.

PASTORAL CARE

The mission of pastoral care at St. Andrew’s is to provide care and support to those parishioners who are in need, whether celebrating life’s great joys or overcoming life’s burdens.

- The Prayer Chain offers prayers for parishioners, their family and friends and strangers who are in need of prayer.
- Parishioners in the hospital, in a nursing home, or confined to home receive a pastoral care visit which may also include Communion.
- Volunteers deliver home-cooked meals, make phone calls and send cards with uplifting messages of hope and prayer from our church community, and provide rides to church or doctor’s appointments.

FELLOWSHIP

Fellowship events and activities are vital to building a supporting, caring community among our children, youth and adults; and the members of St. Andrew's do love to spend time together!



Each Sunday, after the 10:00 a.m. service, parishioners gather for coffee hour in the Upper Hall. Our parishioners take turns hosting this much-loved social time, giving adults an opportunity to chat with one another and children a chance to play together. One special coffee hour was in celebration of St. Andrew's Day which coincided with our children and youth making Christmas ornaments and decorating the Christmas tree in our Narthex.

We kick off the Church school year with our annual Church Picnic and conclude the Church school year with a Strawberry Festival, following our Children's Day worship service.

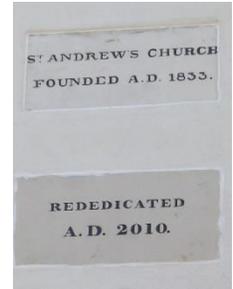


In between, St. Andrew's has celebrated Oktoberfest, Art and Wine, Italian Night, and most recently has hosted a community Chicken BBQ. The BBQ served many purposes including fundraising, friendraising and community outreach and was a celebration of our tight-knit and loving community. This is a new tradition that we plan on continuing every year.

Our Resources

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

St. Andrew's, West Vincent, sits on approximately 6.5 acres amid fields and farms at Ludwig's Corner in Glenmoore, PA. The church itself dates back to 1833, but has undergone renovations to meet the changing needs of the parish. The original church structure was basically unchanged until 1956 when the Henry White Memorial Parish House was built. In 1966, the McBee Vestry House, which includes offices, meeting rooms and classrooms, was added.



In late 2009 and 2010, St. Andrew's was expanded to add an additional 100 seats in the church and create a spacious narthex and large, sunny hallway connecting the church to the Upper Hall.

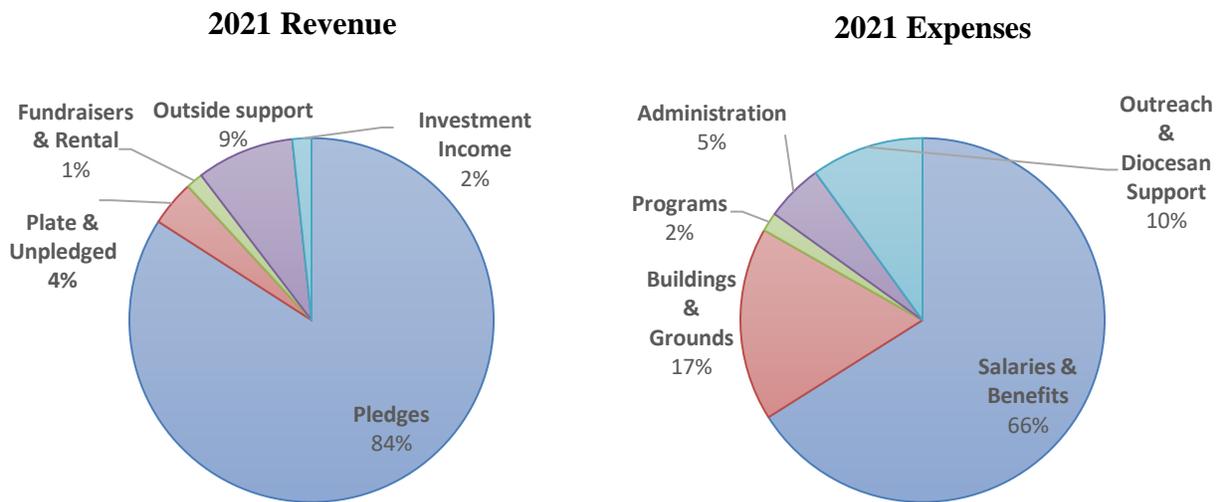
Our Buildings and Grounds Committee and a few dedicated members keep our church and the property in excellent shape, attending to minor repairs and maintenance, thereby reducing our expenses. During the Spring and Fall Clean-ups more parishioners come out to help weed, mulch and rake leaves.



In the past ten years, St. Andrew's has made a number of improvements to the buildings and grounds which included adding a new playground and updating our kitchen. Recent improvements have focused on updating our technological capabilities by adding AV equipment, updating the hardware and expanding the wireless network to allow for increased WIFI access throughout the church.

FINANCES

Although St. Andrew’s has had strong financial stewardship in the past, pledging has declined the past five years, which was exacerbated by the pandemic and by our rector being called to another parish. The Vestry of St. Andrew’s, along with its Interim Priest-In-Charge, are working hard to position St. Andrew’s to come out of the pandemic strong with increased giving. Even with a drop in pledging in recent years, our physical assets are well-maintained, and we are debt-free. The charts below illustrate the major income and expense categories of our 2021 operating budget:



It should be noted that the “Outside support” category of the 2021 budget noted above will likely not be available in 2022, as that category consists of relief that was only available because of the pandemic. We will need to make up that revenue in increased pledging in 2022.

We are pleased to see that families who had left St. Andrew’s over the last five years have recently begun to return due to positive new leadership, and we even brought on a wonderful new parishioner who was baptized during the pandemic. Halfway through 2021, actual pledges are exceeding budgeted pledges by 11%, which is expected to improve in the fall as we make a push for parishioners to return post-pandemic.

In addition to our operating fund, the church maintains five other funds, which remain fairly static in comparison. They are:

- Endowment Fund – largest fund that is used for reserve purposes only.

- Building Fund – used for capital improvements to the building infrastructure.
- Memorial (Churchyard) Fund – used for memorials for departed parishioners.
- Youth Fund – used for organized youth activities.
- Designated Outreach Fund – used for donations that are designated for Outreach.

Despite the pandemic, we were able to maintain a net balance across the five funds listed above of \$976,657 as of December 31, 2020, which was an increase of \$100,891 over prior year. Fixed assets have an insured value of approximately \$4 million.

It should be noted that three of these funds – the Endowment Fund, Building Fund, and Memorial (Churchyard) Fund – as well as a Music Fund, are held in trust by The Church Foundation. These four funds are intended to be held in perpetuity, with distributions from interest made quarterly or as needed, as approved by the Vestry. Distributions from these funds must be used for the intended purpose of the fund. For example, money from the Music Fund must be spent on the music program of the Church.

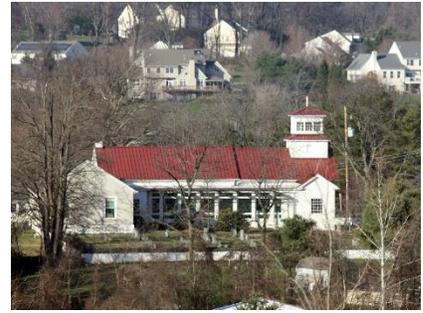
Our Surrounding Community

St. Andrew’s is located in the semi-rural area of West Vincent Township in Glenmoore, Pennsylvania, in the heart of beautiful, northern Chester County. While the area immediately surrounding St. Andrew’s is quintessential Chester County, with rolling hills, horse farms and quaint villages, within a five-mile radius one finds several larger suburban communities that attract people commuting into the larger Philadelphia metro area.



St. Andrew’s is not located in a town center and as a result can be difficult to find unless one specifically looks for it. As one parishioner described it, “St. Andrew’s is a hidden gem.” While the majority of our parishioners are less than 15 minutes away from St. Andrew’s, we have members who travel for up to 30 minutes. We have an intimate feel but serve a large community.

Within the past 10 years, the area has seen considerable growth, especially in West Vincent Township with the completion of Byers Station, the Courts of Chester Springs and the current development of 230 apartments within a quarter-mile of the church. However, over the past five years, growth has slowed to a more moderate level. In particular, growth in the youngest age groups has slowed, which is reflected in our church school enrollment numbers. One of our challenges is to continue to attract young families in light of this shift.



A review of the demographics of the communities surrounding St. Andrews shows:

- In the next five years, the population is expected to grow 3.7%, down from an expected growth of 5.7% for the prior five years (2015 – 2020).
- The area is predominantly white, though the white population growth is declining while the growth in our Asian populations across the region is increasing.
- The average age in our region is 41; children 9 years of age and younger are declining as a percentage of the total population, while growth has been seen in older elementary, middle school and high school youth. Additionally, middle-aged adults continue to increase indicating an increase in family households, providing future opportunities for growth.
- Over 60% of the local community holds a bachelor's or graduate degree, and the congregation is similarly well-educated.
- Median household income in the surrounding community (within 20 minutes of St. Andrews) is over \$100,000 and increases to approximately \$165,000 within 10 minutes of the church.

St. Andrew's sits on the border of two school districts (Downingtown and Owen J. Roberts) so our children attend a large number of different schools. Within our community there are also a number of well-regarded private school options, as well as other schools aimed at individuals with special needs.

Our Challenges and Opportunities

St. Andrew's greatest challenges involve numerical and spiritual growth.

CHALLENGES:

- Growing our membership by reengaging lost members and attracting new members amidst Covid-19 concerns, leadership changes and more modest growth in the surrounding community.
- Rebuilding and Reenergizing Children & Youth Ministries in light of decreasing enrollment influenced by demographic shifts in the surrounding area and competing priorities within families.
- Actively engage our parishioners in the ministries within the church as we compete for people and financial resources.

OPPORTUNITIES:

We believe that our greatest opportunities involve building on what we consider to be our greatest assets.

- Leveraging our warm and welcoming congregation to attract new members in an area with growth in housing.
- Utilizing the strength of our Outreach Ministries, partner with community groups and area programs to increase St. Andrew's presence in the community.
- Continuing to be the church that embraces all: *Whoever you are, and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at St. Andrew's.*

Our Future

The members of St. Andrew's are committed to working together to build a future that embodies the growth in Christ's love that we call for in the St. Andrew's prayer every Sunday.

We are seeking an enthusiastic, warm, compassionate and collaborative spiritual leader who:

- Welcomes all, wherever they may be on their spiritual journey, and helps us rebuild our joyful community.

- Makes preaching a high priority to inspire and motivate us on how to live by our faith today and be adventurous in serving those in need as the hands of God.
- Is passionate about a spiritual calling and can inspire a sense of stewardship among all members throughout our various ministries.
- Leads, supports and reenergizes our music and Christian education programs with all parishioners, young and old.
- Can build positive relationships with all members and staff, as well as nonmembers.