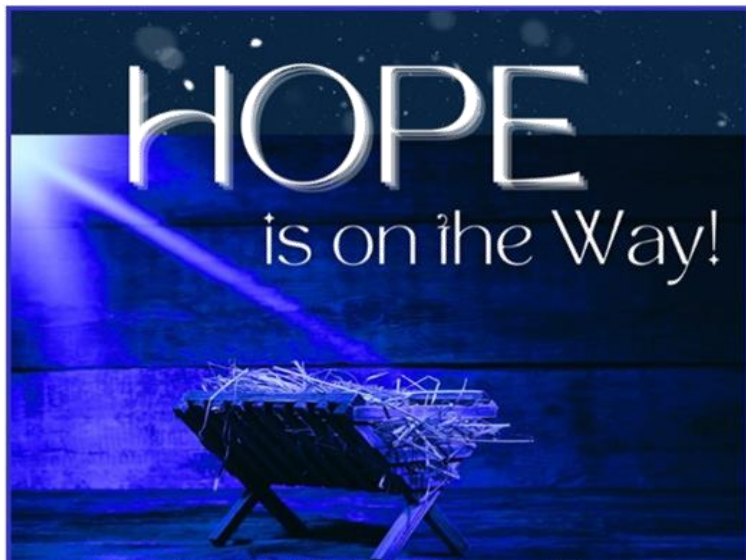


THE FISHERMAN

A publication of St. Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church

And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.' MATTHEW 4:19



JOIN US THIS CHRISTMAS SEASON

"HOPE is on the Way"

Be blessed this Advent/Christmas Season with music, lighting the candles of Hope, Love, Peace, and Joy, and messages that explore the voices of the Christmas story to find HOPE.

- ♦ **Sunday, December 3, 10:00 am**
First Sunday of Advent "HOPE for Healing"
Teddy Bear Sunday
- ♦ **Sunday, December 10, 10:00 am**
Second Sunday of Advent "HOPE for Love"
- ♦ **Sunday, December 17, 10:00 am**
Third Sunday of Advent
Sounds of the Season: a musical worship service
- ♦ **Thursday, December 21, 6:00 pm**
The Longest Night: "HOPE for Peace"
- ♦ **Sunday, December 24, 10:00 am**
Fourth Sunday of Advent "HOPE for Joy"
Children's Christmas Pageant
All young people present are invited to participate
See Christmas Eve service information below
- ♦ **Sunday, December 31, 10:00 am**
Christmas Hymn Sing Service

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

4:30 & 7:00 pm

Traditional Candlelight Communion Services

"HOPE is Here!"

Merry Advent! *by Rev. Jonathan Tompkins*

Like many of you, I'm sure, I love this season that begins this year on December 3 and goes through December 24, not just for the nostalgia that Christmas brings with it, but for the various ways that we observe and celebrate it in the church.

While our stores have been in Christmas mode since before Halloween, we are called to wait for the next four weeks. Advent means 'coming toward,' and we wait and prepare once again for the One who is coming toward us as a baby born in Bethlehem. At the same time, Christ has already come and is here as King! So there's a tension for us:

We hang the lights looking forward to the light breaking upon us, but the light has already broken upon us!

We decorate the evergreen trees as a sign of everlasting life, but eternal life has already begun when we follow Jesus!

We sing 'O Come, O Come Emmanuel,' but Emmanuel has already appeared so we 'rejoice, rejoice!'

I encourage us to embrace that tension. You will see this reflected in our Sunday worship services and our Advent studies: we will begin and end with Advent hymns, but sing Christmas hymns in the middle. We will hear from the prophets about the One who is coming, but will hear Gospel readings about the One who is here. We will light the Advent candles while asking God to 'fill our hearts with Christmas light.' We will explore the voices of the Christmas story who eagerly anticipate the birth of Christ, and who experience the HOPE of encountering him.

I also want us to be mindful of the tension that for some of us, this season is not always the 'most wonderful time of the year.' The holidays bring up a lot of pain and sadness, and we offer our Longest Night service as an opportunity to acknowledge the heartache of this time of year, but also to offer healing and hope in the midst of it.

As we look at our family wish lists and begin shopping, let's also be sure to gift others who need to experience the HOPE of the season. Teddy Bear Sunday, Christmas Grace, and our Christmas Eve offering are just some ways we can do this as a church family.

We are a people of the 'now and not yet,' and we will wait and celebrate and prepare and rejoice and look back and look forward as we welcome, worship, grow, and serve together as our St. Andrew family during this season.

Grateful to be on the journey with you, *Jonathan*

ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASSES

- ◆ The Joy and Seekers Classes will continue to meet on December 3, 10, and 17 at 9:00 am. The Advent study, *Almost Christmas*, will be hosted by the Seekers Class. There will be no classes on December 24 and 31.
- ◆ Beginning on January 7, all Sunday School classes will meet in the Celebration Center classrooms at 10:15-11:00 am, between worship services.
- ◆ Environmental Justice Class – Based on DVD *Serve God Save the Planet*, we will examine how God's original command to "tend and protect the earth" extends into actions and activities of every Christian's everyday lives.
- ◆ Joy Class – Study continues on The Development and History of Early Christianity, focusing on early Christian writings that were not included in the Bible. Resources are provided by class leaders. This class meets in person and online.
- ◆ Seekers Class – Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton will provide the basis for discussions on how we understand the nature of scripture and how we should interpret it. Misunderstood Bible themes will be considered.



Children and Youth Ministry in December

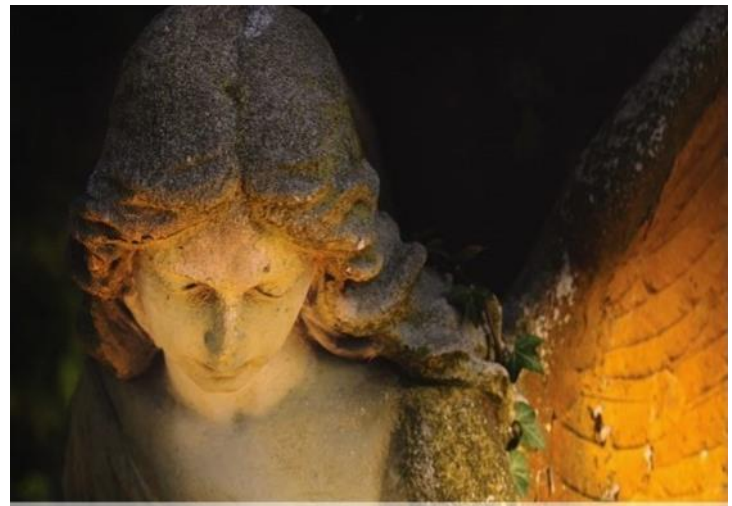
- December 3 @ 9:15 Christmas Cookie Bake-off
- December 3 @ 11:15 Parents Meeting with Pastor Jonathan
- December 10 @ 9:15 Holiday visit with folks at Fraser
- December 17 @ 11:15 Pageant rehearsal/costume check
- December 24 @ 9:15 Pageant rehearsal prior to presentation during 10:00 service

Two-Service Schedule Resumes

Sunday, January 7, 2024: Epiphany Sunday

- ★ 9:00 am Traditional Worship
- ★ 10:00 am Sunday School
- ★ 11:09 am Modern Worship

Join us as we begin the new year welcoming the Wise Men, lighting the Epiphany candles, and beginning a new series, *'The B.I.B.L.E.: Making Sense of our Sacred Scripture'*



Sounds of the Season

Sunday, December 17
10:00 am, Sanctuary

Plan to be with us on Sunday, December 17 for a musical worship service celebrating the sounds and themes of Advent and Christmas. Featured will be choral pieces, bells, strings, and other instruments. A highlight will be the Seaside Liturgical Dancers.

Come to listen, sing, and watch as we expectantly await and prepare for the celebration of the Nativity.



The Longest Night

A service of heartbreak and hope

Thursday, December 21
St. Andrew Sanctuary
6:00 pm

Christmas can be a difficult time for some people. For those grieving a loss—a loved one through death or divorce, a job, a relationship, physical or mental health, mobility, a dream—the joy of the season can seem out of reach. The Longest Night Service is when we recognize that things are not always "merry" and "bright;" there is grief and there is darkness, but there is always HOPE. It is a time to reflect, remember, accept where we are, and seek healing and HOPE as we await the Light of the world.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled...

Jesus, in John 14:27

The Soup Kitchen Kettle is 'Boiling Over'



BASE STOCK

The Soup Kitchen crew continues to serve 90 sandwich meals on Tuesday and 70 cooked meals on Fridays. The Harvest Table provides over 800 pounds of groceries again each Tuesday and Friday from our partners - Second Helpings, Deep Well, Piggly Wiggly, Panera's, and Starbucks. Our Blessing

Box parking lot food pantry provides food 24/7 at the rate of 150 pounds a week, distributing 1750 pounds of groceries weekly or 21,000 pounds during 2023.

In 2023, the Soup Kitchen will have served 250 households and 8500 meals. Our guest households are able to secure at no cost a good portion of their groceries, thus allowing them to shift these dollar savings to other housing and transportation financial obligations. SABTS Soup Kitchen makes a daily financial difference to our south island families.

INGREDIENTS SIMMERING

Several special events are on the cutting board or have been added to the Soup Kitchen kettle. WAHHI, Women's Club of Hilton Head Island, participated in a cooking demonstration on November 6, showing how soup kitchen volunteers prepared our meals from foods rescued by Second Helpings or donated by Deep Well. Sixty members attended and we were able to secure 16 new and engaged volunteers. This will become an annual event to showcase how by working together St. Andrew By-The-Sea, Deep Well, and Second Helpings provide nourishing meals to our island working families.

Annie O's Restaurant donated 80 complete Turkey Thanksgiving meals to our guests on Friday, November 17. We served a sit-down lunch buffet to a larger than normal group. Thank you, Annie O's! Restaurant Week each month showcases a local south end restaurant that donates a complete meal. We are looking for volunteers who might be interested in joining our Restaurant Week Team (Tom Sharp at 317.250.9626).

English Speaking Classes have begun on Fridays. We have 10-12 guests attending these lessons. Our goal is to encourage our guests to be more comfortable in speaking English. Our guests indicate they need help in the areas of grocery shopping and medical appointments. This will also foster an environment where our guests and volunteers become part of a greater Soup Kitchen fellowship. Anyone is welcome to join this teaching effort, Spanish speaking is nice by not necessary.

BRING THE KETTLE TO A BOIL

And finally, as the year transitions to new opportunities, two major events turn up the heat in the Soup Kitchen.

Dunes Real Estate Marketing's annual food drive on December 12. For over 10 years, this wonderful group of real estate personnel have collected an exorbitant amount of food for the Soup Kitchen. Typically their generous donations will supplement our Harvest Table through April! It is a key part of our ability to serve our families. Kickin' Asphalt Bike Club delivers the donated food by bike caravan during their annual Elf Drive.

St. Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church

Safety and Security Team

Supporting a Safe Worship Environment

St. Andrew's Church Council and Trustee leadership are addressing safety and security concerns on our campus. We have attended some presentations, invested in some educational material and are now planning to form a Safety and Security team to be trained in January 2024 by a professional who worked for the Beaufort County Sheriff's Department and served as a minister at one time. He leads a consulting organization and his passion is church and school safety.

Contrary to popular belief, the majority of issues that such teams commonly encounter are health issues: heart attacks, strokes, falls resulting in injury, etc. Active shooters, while garnering major media attention, are rare. But, the 14 hours of training, planned to be on a Friday and Saturday in January, will encompass a variety of situations and educate us on how to successfully handle them.

We are seeking up to thirty individuals willing to be trained and serve on a semi-regular basis. Team members will be assigned specific duties. For example, only one person is charged with calling 911, another might be directing the response vehicle to the appropriate location. Ushers, while not required to serve on this team, might wish to volunteer and the training will be offered to all ushers so they gain familiarity with the processes.

This is a terrific opportunity for those who are not currently actively involved in leadership to be a vital volunteer at St. Andrew. We anticipate a diverse team of men, women, age groups and experience. Prior safety and security service through police, fire, military careers is helpful but not required at all. Individuals who have prior medical experience would be great resources for this team.

If you are interested or have questions, please reach out to Michael Tucker at 972.342.7517 or mtucker@mtapartners.com.



Santa arrives on Friday, December 15. Our annual festive buffet meal will feature baked ham and the works prepared by our wonderful kitchen volunteers. Santa will arrive on que with presents for all our families and their children. St. Andrew elves and Soupers, Carol Smith and Karen Kirby, have an additional and personal initiative underway to insure that each Soup Kitchen guest child will have a present under the tree Christmas morning with their name on it. Thank you, Carol and Karen.

Our kettle always boils over with appreciation and blessings to each and every person who has in one way or another faithfully touched the Soup Kitchen. Our weekly prayer circle gives thanks to our Father for His guidance, providing our fellowship and especially the time, talent and treasure of our supporters. Thank you with blessings to all.



Monday, November 27

We had such a fun and festive night!

Check out the pictures below



St. Andrew Unveils New Logo

The St. Andrew Strategic Plan directed the Communications Committee to develop a new logo as part of a broader rebranding effort to coincide with the arrival of the new pastor. The committee's goal was to design a more contemporary logo that encompasses who we are. The Committee hired the United Methodist Church's Communications and Marketing Department (UMCC) to design a logo for a competitive and reasonable fee. Members of the Committee completed UMCC's lengthy design questionnaire, and UMCC designed seven different logos based on that input.

After several rounds of revisions, the Communications Committee selected a final design concept. A focus group comprised of congregation members including generations from children to seniors was assembled. Focus group participants were asked to review two iterations of the final design, select a favorite (if they had one), and share any feedback they wished to offer.



The Communications Committee recommended this final version of the logo to the church council for approval. The Communications Committee thanks the members of the focus group for their participation!

New Connection Care Team Forms

A new outreach program has begun at St. Andrew. A group of volunteers, under the direction of Pastor Frank Lybrand, has formed the Connection Care Team. The purpose of this group is to reach out to and keep in touch with folks who may not be able to come to church regularly and want to stay connected to St Andrew.



The team started meeting in September and began reaching out to folks in November by sending out Thanksgiving cards. They will also send out Christmas cards made by the Creating for Good team at the church. Another part of the outreach will include making phone calls and visits to those interested in staying in touch. This is a completely separate program from Stephen Ministries and visits by the pastors, and will not duplicate efforts.

Volunteers who are interested in being part of the Connection Care Team, or if you or someone you know would like them to reach out to you, please email to careteamhhiumc@gmail.com.





St. Andrew is a Stephen Ministry Congregation

Our trained Stephen Ministers are ready to come along side and provide spiritually based comfort and support when needed.

To connect with a Stephen Minister, please email to stephenministryhhiumc@gmail.com or call David Peterson at 843.816.1762

All contact is confidential

Fellowship Friends

Tuesdays at 10:00 am via Zoom

Fun and engaging topics of discussion along with spiritual encouragement and support

Email jaygraves@hotmail.com for a Zoom invitation.

If you do not have access to the internet, you can still participate via telephone.

Call Jay at 843-342-6322 for directions on how to do this.

Everyone is invited to join in!



Meet the STAFF



The Meet the Staff column will help familiarize you with the people who serve as staff at St. Andrew By-The-Sea UMC. This month, please get to know Paula Refice.

Paula Refice is St. Andrew's Financial Administrator. She came to St. Andrew by way of its bookkeeping company, Island Financial. St. Andrew was one of her clients and quickly became her favorite client. She felt a gentle nudging when the in-house position became available, she applied and got the job. She has been working full-time at St. Andrew since March 2018.

She is a graduate of The Ohio State University, with a Bachelors degree in Art and Education (K-12). After graduation, she was a permanent sub for a couple of years and then left that field to go into accounting. Early on, she worked for a few doctors' offices as an Office and Finance Manager, certified X-Ray Tech, and worked for a CPA. In her last position before moving from Columbus, Ohio to the Lowcountry, she worked for 24 years as Senior Escrow Accountant for Chicago Title/Fidelity National Title & Trust.

What she loves most about being at St. Andrew is getting to know and interacting with the parishioners. Her main role may be finance, but she strives to serve St. Andrew in whatever the needs may be in any way she can. She and her husband, Michael, live in Hilton Head, and although she doesn't have a lot of time for hobbies, when she does, she enjoys gardening, biking, and art projects.



- ☞ To Phyllis Martin at the passing of her husband, our Christian brother, Herb Martin on November 5, 2023.
- ☞ To Glenda Harralson at the recent passing of her husband, our Christian brother, Grayson Harralson on Hilton Head.
- ☞ To Arden Sutton at the recent passing of her brother, John Gustafson in Florida.



As we approach Christmas and the year-end, we have much to be grateful for in 2023 and are excited for 2024 and our future. During 2023 we have transitioned pastors with the blessing of the appointment of Reverend Jonathan Tompkins, whose leadership, energy, and vision are strengthening our Worship, Mission, and Community involvement. Likewise, our financial situation continues to strengthen, with giving and a strong pledge campaign for 2024. As we approach the end of the year, we are writing to ask for your support to finish 2023 strong.

We have been very diligent in our spending and project we can end the year close to our budget with your help. *We ask that you prayerfully consider fulfilling the stewardship goals you set for yourself for 2023 and consider a special year end gift towards the operating budget of the church to help us close the gap.*

Our pledge campaign has shown good results, and with commitments from those outstanding, we would be close to achieving our 2024 budget, established at a modest 1% increase over 2023. If you have already shared your giving plan for 2024, we are grateful for your support. *If you have not yet had the opportunity to indicate your pledge commitment for next year, we ask that you consider doing so at this time.*

These are exciting times for St. Andrew as we engage in our community to seek to be followers of Christ. Much has been accomplished over the past year: the establishment of the Epworth Foster Care office in the old Sandbox location, an enlarged and enhanced food pantry and soup kitchen, a reinvigorated children's program, enriched small group studies, and many other mission activities. At the same time, the Trustees have addressed many needed improvements of our facilities, including the purchase of a parsonage for our pastor. We look forward to our second 'modern' Sunday service beginning in January, and we are contemplating a service trip to Guatemala during the summer.

On behalf of all the members of Saint Andrew, we thank you for your work and gifts in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ.

Robert Dietz, Finance Chair
Sarah Coffin, Church Council Chair

GIVING AT A GLANCE (January - October 2023)

	Year-to-Date <u>Actual</u>	Year-to-Date <u>Budget</u>	Variance favorable/ <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
Giving	\$707,780	\$827,000	(\$119,220)

Operating Revenue and Expenses (January - October 2023)

	Year-to-Date <u>Actual</u>	Year-to-Date <u>Budget</u>	Variance favorable/ <u>(Unfavorable)</u>
Revenue	\$749,043	\$833,500	(\$84,457)
Expenses	\$809,471	\$826,871	\$17,400
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$60,428)	\$6,629	(\$67,057)



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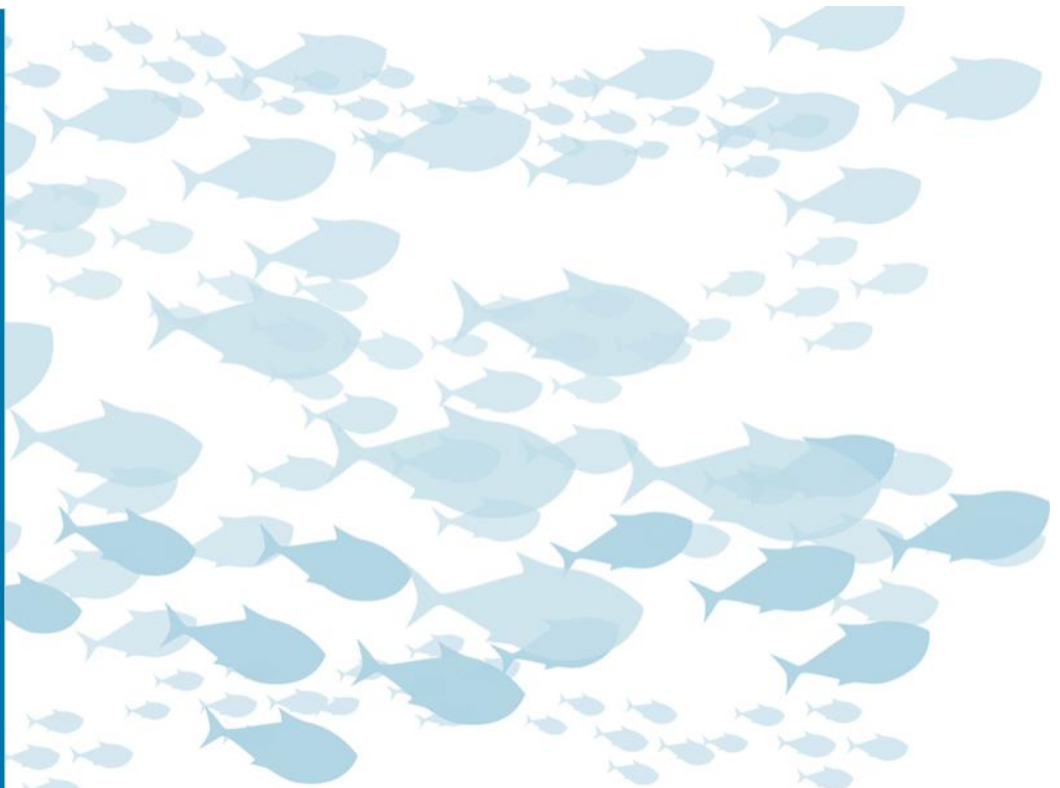
Church Office Hours
M-F 8:30 am - 4:30 pm

SUNDAY WORSHIP
One Service at 10:00 am
In-person + Livestream

Rev. Jonathan Tompkins
Senior Pastor

Rev. Frank E. Lybrand
Associate Pastor

**Find us on all your
favorite platforms**



St. Andrew By-The-Sea is an open, nurturing body of Christian believers seeking God's guidance as we minister to others.