

One hundred and thirty-second Annual Meeting of  
**ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
Wellesley, Massachusetts



Photo: Peter B. Lull

2024 Annual Reports

# ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Wellesley, Massachusetts

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D.D. Alexander, Rob Brandt, Jane Givens, Scott Jones, Caren Parker, Sandra Rigney, Jenny Sawyer, Lynda Sperry, Harriet Thompson, Michael Vanin, and Sandy Warren

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# 132nd Annual Meeting

January 26, 2025

11am to 12:10pm

## Agenda

1. Singing of the hymn (page 2) ..... 11:00am
2. Call to order and opening prayer ..... 11:05am
3. Reading of the warrant
4. Quorum and election of parliamentarian
5. Filing of annual reports by title ..... 11:10am
6. Report from the nominating committee,  
Nominations from the floor and election ..... 11:15am  
*Adrian Robbins-Cole for Dan Dent, chair*
7. Financial reports. .... 11:25am  
*Finance chair remarks Justin Wahls*  
*Treasurer's report Joe Hamilton*  
*Stewardship report Madison Riley*  
*Presentation of 2025 operating budget Justin Wahls*
8. Rector's comments. .... 11:45pm
9. New business ..... 11:55pm
10. Closing prayer and blessing ..... 12:05pm
11. Adjournment. .... 12:10pm

Commissioned in celebration of the 25th anniversary of R. Harrison Kelton as Organist and Choirmaster  
of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Wellesley, Massachusetts

for the Feast of St. Andrew

Descant

3. Sing of An-drew, bold a - pos - tle, who made the gos - pel known,  
1. Sing of An-drew, John's dis - ci - ple, led by faith through ways un - trod,  
2. Sing of An-drew, called by Je - sus, from the shores of Gal - i - lee,  
3. Sing of An-drew, bold a - pos - tle, sent to make the gos - pel known,  
faith - - ful to his Lord's ex - am - ple, made a cross his own.  
till the Bap - tist cried at Jor - dan, "There be - hold the Lamb of God."  
leav - ing boats and nets and kin - dred, trust - ing in that "Fol - - low me."  
faith - ful to his Lord's ex - am - ple, called to make a cross his own.  
So may we who prize his mem - ory hon - or Christ in our own day,  
Stirred by hear - ing this new teach - er, An - drew, freed from doubt and fear,  
When a lad's small meal fed thou - sands, when in - quir - ing Greeks found care,  
So may we who prize his mem - ory hon - or Christ in our own day,  
bear - ing wit - ness to our neigh - bors, liv - ing what we sing and pray.  
ran to tell his bro - ther Si - mon, "God's A - noint - - ed One is here!"  
when the Spi - rit came in bless - ing, An - drew faith - - ful - ly was there.  
bear - ing wit - ness to our neigh - bors, liv - ing what we sing and pray.

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr.

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Music: Wellesley's Kelton, James Woodman (b. 1957)

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# Staff Reports

## Report of the Rector



Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole

AS I LOOK BACK ON 2024, I am filled with gratitude and excitement about the life of our parish. This year has been marked by increased commitment across all aspects of our church community. Although the pandemic occurred four years ago and is now very much in the rearview mirror, I still feel a deep sense of gratitude every Sunday when the church procession enters the sanctuary and we are greeted by in-person congregants, now back to pre-pandemic levels of attendance. Three years ago, we had no idea whether we would ever see such attendance again. When we factor in our online participation—albeit at conservative estimates, as we do not know how many people are watching on each device or for how long—we find that our combined attendance has exceeded pre-pandemic levels.

Our in-person attendance for the start of the new program year in September 2024 is approximately 20% higher than the same period in 2023. For example, we had 192 people in church on Homecoming Sunday in 2024, compared to 150 in 2023, and 300 people at St. Andrew's Day in 2024, compared to 251 in 2023.

In addition to being grateful for this overall increase in attendance, I have been encouraged by three key elements related to our heightened participation. First, one driving factor behind our growth has been the influx of new families with young children. At a time when many Episcopal congregations are aging, it has been especially encouraging to see so many children and young families in church. Second, last year, it seemed that a large percentage of new people were traveling to St. Andrew's from outside Wellesley. We were concerned that our increased attendance might come at the expense of other Episcopal parishes. However, this year, nearly all our new members are from Wellesley, meaning our growth is not coming at the cost of other parishes. Third, there has been a welcome ease in recruiting volunteers to help run the

many church programs highlighted in this annual report. The volunteer shortage had been a real struggle for the parish in the past few years as we emerged from the pandemic.

So, what has contributed to St. Andrew's positive experience of new people joining the congregation and the re-engagement of parishioners who had not attended in person since before the pandemic? An important answer to this question is reflected in this annual report, which showcases the strong programs that engage people spiritually, as well as the vibrant community life of this parish. St. Andrew's is blessed to have the resources to offer strong church school programs, engaging adult Christian learning opportunities, and a first-rate choir and music program that deeply enriches our worship.

These programs have allowed us to respond to a spiritual hunger in society, which has increasingly recognized the profound benefits that spirituality and church communities bring to the well-being of individuals and families. Of course, this comes as no surprise to those with a committed Christian faith, who have long experienced this well-being in their own lives. What has changed is that this connection is now being acknowledged more widely in society. This recognition is due in large part to a significant body of research published by secular academics at places of higher learning, which has found strong links between well-being and engagement in spiritual practices and religious communities. As many of you know, our own Associate for Youth and Family, Sarah Robbins-Cole, conducted her recent doctoral work on the connection between happiness and spiritual practice among teenagers at St. Andrew's.

Before concluding, I would like to express my thanks to all the clergy and staff at St. Andrew's, who have worked tirelessly to help our parish thrive. I would also like to extend heartfelt thanks to Wardie Mannix for her beloved music ministry, which lies at the heart of our worship. It has also been a blessing to welcome Benedict Hensley as our new Director of Children's Music. I am also grateful to

Katharine Clark for her excellent management of our office and technology, to Susan Jackson for her work with the children, to Steve Killeen and Bill Clover for overseeing the church building, and to Joanne Butler for managing the church accounts.

I am deeply appreciative of my clergy colleagues as well. Thank you to the Rev. Karen Vickers Budney for her pastoral care in her role as Pastoral Associate. Many thanks to the Rev. Dr. Sarah Robbins-Cole for her leadership of our growing church school programs, as well as for restarting the youth group and launching the Soul Sisters ministry. I am also grateful to the Rev. Margaret Schwarzer for her leadership in our engaging adult Christian learning ministry and the membership committee, which has welcomed many newcomers to our parish.

Finally, I would like to thank our vestry and our two church wardens, Megan Burns and Tom Faust, for their work in helping lead the parish. I would particularly like to thank Megan Burns, who will complete her term as warden at the annual meeting, for her dedication and hard work over the last three years. Megan has played a vital leadership role in helping the parish navigate the challenges that followed the pandemic. I am deeply grateful for her wisdom and insights during this time.

Yours in Christ,



Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole

## Report of the Associate Rector for Adult Formation and Membership



Rev. Margaret Schwarzer

ST. ANDREW'S HAS WELCOMED 35 new households into our church family in 2024, and their presence has invigorated our community with energy and faithfulness. The palpable buzz on Sunday mornings is felt in our adult Christian learning classes, Inquirers' classes, Faith & Practice sessions, newcomer brunches, and Kids' Place coffees. We continue to be a vital, vibrant community of spiritually curious Christians, committed to creating opportunities for everyone to deepen their spirituality. To support families with young children, we offer childcare on Sunday mornings from 8:55am to 11:15am, and we invite parents to participate in our 9am adult Christian learning class or join the choir.

### Adult Formation Advisory Committee

Our adult formation advisory committee and I share the mission of Christian education for adults at St. Andrew's. Your feedback and interests help guide

the topics and programs we offer, so please feel free to share your ideas and questions with me or any committee member. I am grateful for the service and creativity of our 2024 committee members: Pam Alexander, Laura Brown MacKinnon, David Guydan, Carrie Hawley, Ansley Martin, Will Nystrom, Paul Shellito, and Sandy Warren. I am especially thankful for the leadership of our chair, Carrie Hawley, whose enthusiasm, creativity, and love of teaching have inspired our work.

### Adult Formation and Learning

This year's adult formation offerings included monthly open Bible studies (covering the pastoral epistles of James, Peter, and Philemon), a bimonthly men's Bible study (studying Luke), and a beginners' Bible study (focusing on the Gospel of John). These classes, taught by Adrian and me, collectively brought 40 people into Bible study each month.

Additional adult formation programs included our weekly 9am adult Christian learning classes, Inquirers' classes (exploring the Episcopal identity of



Christianity), Faith & Practice classes, and parts two and three of a special three-part series, “Antisemitism from a Jewish Perspective,” taught by a member of Temple Beth Elohim. These programs were offered online, in person, or in hybrid formats. Our spring inquirers’ class had eight participants (special thanks to Mary Scanlon and Paul Shellito, my co-teachers). “Antisemitism from a Jewish Perspective,” taught by Eric Rosen, attracted 45 participants. Rev. Dr. Sarah Robbins-Cole’s class on “Happiness and the Christian Life” drew 50 attendees, and she also launched Soul Sisters, a gathering for women of our parish which meets six times a year for fellowship, outreach, prayer, and reflection.

The screening of *The Philadelphia Eleven*, celebrating the 50th anniversary of women’s ordination to the priesthood, inspired 29 attendees. Our November field trip to Boston College, where we walked a labyrinth (an ancient form of walking meditation), was another enriching experience. The 9am adult Christian learning class, which meets about 28 times per year, averaged 29 participants per session, with over 65 members attending at least one class this year. For more details on the topics we covered, please refer to Carrie Hawley’s report.

We also held our full Lenten Potluck & Program for the five Wednesday nights of Lent for the second time since the COVID pandemic. This year, the program expanded, with an average attendance of 47 people each week. Our Lenten topic was “Ancient Scripture / Modern Life.” The Holy Monday Taizé-style service was held in person, with 35 participants. Our Advent Taizé-style service, held in the sanctuary and broadcast, had 63 participants in person and over 90 online. Special thanks to the members of our Advent Taizé-style meditative working group: D.D. Alexander, Laura Brown MacKinnon, Erica Gelser, Liz Parsons, Jenny Sawyer, and Barbara Shellito.

The 2024 Blue Christmas service provided a space of support for those facing significant loss or challenges during the Christmas season.

Ashes-To-Go was held on Ash Wednesday, 2024, with Paul Shellito and I offering ashes to commuters at the train station and a nearby corner. It was a true pleasure to serve as the facilitator and editor for the eighth *Lenten Meditation Guide* written by

St. Andrew’s parishioners. In 2024, we printed over 560 copies, mailing one to every household on our active parishioner list, and sending a daily email to 126 people who requested the online version.

In November, the Wellesley Turkey Trot saw the St. Andrew’s team grow to 77 participants, ranging in age from five to 80. St. Andrew’s also staffed a water table at the one-mile mark of the race (thanks to Al & Zebby Dubé). We all dodged the rain and had a great time. Faith & Practice classes, which provide forums for parishioners to reflect on the practice of daily faith, continue to be vital and engaging, with participation ranging from 29 to 50 members per class. Three of these classes were held in person this year. The men’s book club is also thriving. In May, two adults were received into the Episcopal Church, and two college students were confirmed at a service at All Saints, Brookline.

## Membership Committee

In 2024, 35 new households joined us as seekers or newcomers. Our membership committee welcomed them and helped them learn about the parish. We ensure that each newcomer receives a personal email or phone call from a clergy member (me) and a lay member of our committee within the first few weeks of their arrival. We also follow up with other opportunities, including Kids’ Place coffees and newcomer brunches, held in the fall and spring. A Pimm’s party is held at the rector’s home each spring for newcomers who have worshipped with us for two years and are transitioning into active membership. Every Sunday, committee members greet newcomers at the start of the 10am service and stand in the narthex after the service to help register them in our church systems. We also encourage newcomers to attend coffee hour and answer any questions they may have about St. Andrew’s. The membership committee also gives a beautiful picture book to each newly baptized child to celebrate their baptism.

Please join us in welcoming all newcomers in our midst. If you see someone standing alone at coffee hour, please introduce yourself and help them feel welcome. You can also find more details about our work this year in the membership committee’s report.

As the clergy liaison for the membership committee, my primary responsibilities include welcoming newcomers by email or phone, so they receive an immediate clergy welcome. I also meet with newcomers who wish to discuss their spiritual journeys and help them learn more about our parish. This year, I'm especially thankful for Amanda Curtis, chair of our committee. Amanda keeps track of all membership details, inspires us with her big-hearted, extroverted love of people, and ensures that we have fun along the way. It is a joy to work with her and the rest of our dedicated membership committee: Hope Aldrich, Travis Anza, Laurin Baldwin, Connie Barnes, Pam Byron, Elizabeth Clarke, Becky Hamlin, Carrie Hawley, Angie Johnson, Ntonhle Kekana, Sarah Klein, Suzanne Nystrom, and Betsy Veidenheimer.

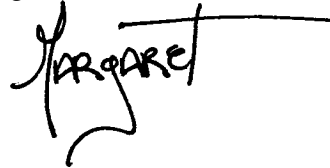
### College Ministry

In 2024, college students continued to worship with us at our 10am and 5pm services, with some joining us online. Students have sung in our adult choir, taught church school, and participated in the altar guild this year. Several enthusiastic students also helped us prepare for the 2024 Bargain Haul. Two col-

lege students were confirmed at All Saints, Brookline in May, and it was a privilege to witness their pledge of adult faith. When you see Wellesley College and Babson College students during worship or coffee hour, please be sure to welcome them and help them feel at home.

Like all of us, I am thankful for the continued vitality in our sanctuary and classrooms on Sunday mornings. Our community's Sundays are meaningful and engaging, and together we grow in faith. As always, I am especially grateful to our rector, Rev. Adrian Robbins-Cole, for his outstanding leadership, and I'm thankful to my colleagues on our professional staff. It is exciting to see our church grow in so many varied, purposeful, and generous ways.

In gratitude,



Rev. Margaret K. Schwarzer

## Report of the Associate Rector for Youth and Family



Rev. Dr. Sarah Robbins-Cole

IN APRIL OF 2020, THE BOOK *Delighted: What Teenagers Are Teaching the Church About Joy* by Kena Creasy Dean et al. was published. The essential message of the book is that teens who are involved in the church demonstrate genuine enthusiasm for their faith, a willingness to express and explore their beliefs, a love for their communities and church family, and an eagerness to engage in service and worship opportunities. I have found this to be true in our church school, confirmation class, youth group, and children's choir (though not a teen program, the choir is a wonderfully joyful group of children).

Big changes have taken place this year. Susan Jackson and I had a hunch that offering weekly confirmation classes and youth group gatherings might help foster a stronger sense of community and increase attendance—and this has certainly been the case. On the rare occasions when we do not meet because of a long weekend or vacation days, the teens express genuine disappointment and often suggest we meet anyway.

Just yesterday, I told the confirmation class that we would finish our confirmation classes at the end of January 2025. They unanimously and vocally declared that they should continue meeting until the end of the program year! When I asked the confirmands what I should say about their class for this annual report, they said I should be sure to mention that

confirmation classes are “fun, entertaining, and interesting.” They shared that they enjoy learning about the church, our faith, and service, and they particularly appreciate the “random discussions.” They also noted that the class is a nice break from their week (we meet on Monday afternoons) when they would otherwise be doing homework.

Over the weekend, I spoke with one of the teens in our youth group about how she would characterize youth group. She said, “It’s really chill and a great community. We get together to eat dinner, learn, and get involved in service.” We regularly have eight to nine teens attending youth group each Sunday, and we are excited to add this year’s confirmands to the group in the spring.

Another change this year is the addition of Soul Sisters, a program sponsored by the church school committee that brings women together to learn, pray, serve, and grow in faith. So far, we have held three well-attended and appreciated events, including a book discussion, a labyrinth walk, and a program on healing prayer and flower arranging. The flowers were then delivered to homebound members or others in our community, offering them our good wishes and love.

Another initiative born from discussions within the church school committee is our children’s choir and family dinner, which takes place each week. This autumn, we had nine regular attendees, who are perhaps the most exuberant children I have ever met. They enjoy singing with Benedict Hensley, whom they both adore and respect. They also enjoy having dinner together, with some time for a bit of play afterward, while Benedict, the parents, and I enjoy a more leisurely dinner. This has fostered yet another strong community that has grown together over the past four months.

This year, we also introduced monthly all-parish Eucharists, where children and teens participate in leading the service, and the children’s choir sings. Teen preachers have also been involved. Kara Eichelberger preached with me in the spring and will preach on her own during the pageant. In the new year, Caroline Condon and Francesca Grossetti will preach at our Epiphany fireside service. Additionally,

teen readers have been incorporated into regular worship services, such as Advent Lessons & Carols.

In terms of ongoing programs, we continue to hold two Godly Play classes each Sunday. The first class is for pre-K, K, and first grade, and the second is for grades two and three. Currently, both classes are at capacity, but we continue to monitor attendance. If trends continue, we will soon need to start a third class to avoid overcrowding—certainly a wonderful problem to have!

Our fourth and fifth-grade class (upper school) also continues. I’ve continued to write the curriculum and lesson plans for this class, focusing on aspects of spiritual wellness based on my research into teen happiness and the pioneering work of Dr. Lisa Miller, who has shown that strong spiritual practices act as neuroprotective factors for teens and young adults. This provides them with resources for mental well-being and tools for when they face challenges. Topics covered this year have included kindness, gratitude, and hospitality.

Rite-13, our class for sixth and seventh graders, follows a national curriculum offered by the Episcopal Church. This is our smallest class, along with our confirmation class, a reflection of the pandemic’s impact on children’s church attendance. However, the class has had solid attendance and lively discussions, thanks to the dedication of their Rite-13 teachers.

In addition to our regular programs, we held our seasonal gatherings. Although we were snowed out of our Epiphany fireside service and pancake supper, our Maundy Thursday dinner and Passover education, Good Friday interactive Stations of the Cross, All Hallow’s Eve, and Little Angels’ Gift Shop, and Cookies and Carols were all well attended and have matched or exceeded pre-pandemic attendance levels.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude. First, I would like to recognize our church school teachers: D.D. Alexander, Emily Bacon, Veronica Bacon, Matthew Benfer, Catherine Falcetti, Bianka Eichelberger, Kara Eichelberger, Caleb Farny, Dee Dee Griffin, Francesca Grossetti, Pamela Grossetti, Tad Heuer, Angie Johnson, Ntonhle Kekana, Tawanda Masiwa, Sophia Morris, Ashley McCaslin, Stephanie Mitchell, Allison Shirley, Ben Shirley, Elizabeth

Svedland, Lia Tron, Roberto Tron, Carolyn Urban, Coryell Urban, Ellen Wahls, and Anna Lee Wahls.

I am also deeply grateful to our school committee members, including D.D. Alexander, Pamela Grossetti, Stephanie Mitchell, Heather Schaefer, Elizabeth Svedland, Coryell Urban, and Anna Lee Wahls. Our church school thrives because of their commitment, superb organizational skills, and sense of fun.

Lastly, I would like to thank Susan Jackson. As I've said before, her institutional knowledge is invaluable. Her dedication to this work, along with her wisdom, humor, and organization, has been essential

in keeping the children and youth programs running smoothly and effectively for the past seventeen years. I could not ask for a better colleague.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rev. Sarah Robbins-Cole

## Report of the Music Minister



Helen Ward Mannix

OUR LENTEN Choral Evensong was held on March 3. The featured pieces included *Nearer, My God, to Thee* arranged by James L. Stevens, *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in F Major* by George Dyson, and our closing anthem, *Grace Before Sleep*, by Susan La-

Barr, set to a text by Sara Teasdale.

Easter Sunday, March 31, featured James Mosher and his brass quartet, who accompanied the "Hallelujah Chorus" from *Messiah* and played along with our hymns, as well as preludes and postludes. The choir sang the "Hallelujah Chorus" by G.F. Handel and C.V. Stanford's "When Mary Thro' the Garden Went." We had 31 singers in our choir. Our last choir Sunday was June 2.

In June of 2024, I celebrated my seventeenth year as Music Minister at St. Andrew's.

The big news this fall was the hiring of our bass section leader, Benedict Hensley, as our new Children's Choir Director. He holds rehearsals every Thursday from 5 to 5:45pm, followed by dinner. He is following the Royal School of Church Music curriculum, which aims to foster musical skills in our children.

The choir reconvened on Thursday, September 5, and our first choir Sunday was September 8. We continue to have Laura Cervinsky, soprano; Rebekah

Daley, alto; and Benedict Hensley, baritone, as our section leaders. I also hired Sofia Chandler-Freed, soprano; Vanessa Moya, alto; Chao Ma, tenor; and Alex Scheider, tenor. Alex will be leaving after Christmas to complete his Bachelor's degree in Miami, so I will be looking for an additional tenor. To remain competitive, we've increased the per-performance pay of our section leaders from \$70 to \$85. It is particularly challenging to find tenors and basses, as many colleagues have noted a dearth of these voices in the Boston area.

I am hoping to recruit more congregational choir members. Many people I've spoken with have expressed concerns about the commitment involved in joining the choir. I continue to emphasize that a weekly commitment is not essential. The reason we have paid section leaders is to ensure we have four parts for any given Sunday, allowing us to sing four-part music. We understand that our congregation often travels for work or leisure, and this should not preclude participation in our choir. I encourage everyone to consider joining in the new year—no audition is necessary.

St. Andrew's Day was observed on Sunday, November 24. Iain Massie returned to play the pipes, and Jennifer Velazquez was our guest organist, accompanying the choir on Ralph Vaughan Williams's "Antiphon" from *Five Mystical Songs*.

The senior choir also sang for Pamela Henrikson's memorial service on Saturday, November 30. Pam was the wife of our long-time and beloved choir member, Alan Henrikson. On December 8, we held our Advent Lessons & Carols service, featuring 32 singers and Thomas Handel on the organ. The children's Christmas pageant, directed by Benedict Hensley, took place on Sunday, December 15. The Christmas Eve service at 10pm welcomed 30 singers, many of whom were returning. A string quartet played sections of Arcangelo Corelli's "Christmas Concerto" before the service and also accompanied our anthems.

We continue to host Wellesley College chamber music ensembles, under the direction of Jenny Tang, for preludes and postludes at various services. Additionally, several groups have used our sanctuary for musical presentations this year, including:

On Sunday afternoon, April 10, Wellesley College's MUS 344 Advanced Performance Seminar had their class recital in St. Andrew's sanctuary. I look forward to continuing this relationship with Wellesley College.

On April 11, the Gaia Quartet performed a concert here.

On May 11, The Boston Chapter of The American Guild of Organists held their Organ Crawl at our church.

On November 17, the Wellesley Choral Society gave a concert in our sanctuary.

On December 15, BSO cellist Roric Cunningham, with Jenny Tang on piano, performed a concert in our sanctuary.

Jonathan Ambrosino continues to take care of our Juget-Sinclair organ, which is in excellent condition and should serve us for many years to come. Anthony McKenna tunes our pianos.

Respectfully submitted,



Helen Ward Mannix



Photo: Peter B. Lull



# Wardens' Reports

## Wardens' Letter



Megan Burns



Tom Faust

*And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. —Romans 8:28*

AS WE COME TO THE END OF THE YEAR, we have much to celebrate as a parish. Each Sunday, I am delighted to see so many new faces in the pews. After several years of rebuilding our programming and expanding our offerings, we are not only returning to pre-pandemic levels but, in many aspects, reaching new heights in participation on Sundays and at other events. The renewed excitement for worship extends beyond our own St. Andrew's to the diocese as a whole, especially with the election of our new Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Julia E. Whitworth. Bishop Whitworth is the first woman to serve as Bishop Diocesan, and she joins the Diocese from Trinity Church in Indianapolis, succeeding the retiring Bishop, Rt. Rev. Alan Gates, who faithfully served the diocese for ten years.

As we celebrate this exciting leadership change in the diocese, we continue to be grateful for the steady leadership here at St. Andrew's. Adrian's constant presence as our rector has enabled us to grow and adapt to changes in our community. He continues to work tirelessly to educate and challenge us as a congregation, urging us to incorporate Christ's teachings into our daily lives. This year, along with a dedicated committee, Adrian helped lead the discernment process for reimagining the stained-glass window at the rear of the church. This process is ongoing, and we look forward to seeing plans that will continue to beautify our building and bring more people into our community.

One of the largest areas of growth for our parish has been among families with school-aged children. Sarah's efforts to revitalize our church school program, particularly the youth group, have provided significant benefits to new families. We were thrilled to see Sarah complete her PhD this year and continue her research in our parish with the Happiness Project. Sarah also launched the Soul Sisters program, which encourages women across the country to grow in their faith through prayer and the study of God's Word. The expansion of our programming for youth and families has been a joy to witness, offering something enlightening for all age groups.

Our educational programming for adults is also thriving under Margaret's leadership. I look forward to the amazing Lenten potluck series and the *Lenten Meditation Guide*, both of which help our church focus inward on our faith while sharing it in community. The adult education offerings have been a particular blessing this year, especially as we've celebrated our new bishop and learned more about the history of women in the church.

As always, St. Andrew's could not run as smoothly as it does without the tireless work of the church staff. In the absence of a dedicated vestryperson for communications, Katharine Clark has gone above and beyond to ensure that communications to parishioners—whether the weekly bulletin, the e-Pistle, or even this annual report—are sent out in a timely manner. Working with Joe Hamilton, our treasurer, Joanne Butler has kept a watchful eye on the church's finances and works closely with the finance committee to ensure our financial records are accurate and up to date. As the church school has flourished, Susan Jackson has been instrumental in keeping all youth programs running smoothly. This year also saw the revitalization of the beloved children's choir under the new leadership of Benedict Hensley, who holds a Bachelor of Music from Northwestern University and a Master of Music from the New England Conservatory. This year's wonderful

Christmas pageant allowed us to see Benedict's hard work in action.

This year has seen an incredible number of new families coming to worship at St. Andrew's and to celebrate the Eucharist with Adrian, Sarah, Margaret, and Karen Budney. In addition to the power of the spoken word, Wardie Mannix and our amazing choir bring the joy and power of song to our weekly services. We also appreciate the beauty of our physical space, which is managed and stewarded by our sexton, Steve Killeen, and our assistant sexton, Bill Clover.

Our annual stewardship drive to fund 2024 garnered \$1,155,000 in gifts and pledges, which will support the many wonderful programs and people that make St. Andrew's such a vibrant institution. Thanks to all for your continued support and faith in our parish and our missions! Our current campaign for 2025, "Commit to Our Future Together," is approaching our goal. Although we've received many generous donations already, there is always room for more names on our list of Cheerful Givers.

This January marks the end of my three-year term as warden, and it has been an honor to serve alongside so many wonderful people. I want to thank Will Nystrom for guiding me during my first year in this role. It's been a pleasure working with the new warden, Tom Faust, as we have continued to embrace new opportunities for the growth of our community. One of the most interesting aspects of my time as warden has been sitting in on the various committees that work tirelessly throughout the year to create the programs and offerings that make our church so special. I've been blessed to witness their passion and commitment up close.

Also departing from the vestry this year is Justin Wahls, who has faithfully led the finance committee with the dedication and knowledge critical to the health of our parish. Stepping down from her role as vestryperson for fellowship is Ginny Snow, who has ably organized some of our most fabulous events, including the wonderful celebration of Adrian's ten-year anniversary at St. Andrew's. We are extremely blessed that Ginny has agreed to take on the role of our next warden, and I look forward to seeing the enthusiasm and dedication she will bring to the position.

Although it has been two years since we completed the *RenewalWorks* program, we continue to reap the benefits of a more prayerful approach to our daily lives. As I sign off as Warden, I want to leave you with this blessing, by Robert Louis Stevenson:

*Lord, behold our family here assembled. We thank You for this place in which we dwell, for the love accorded us this day, for the hope with which we expect the morrow; for the health, the work, the food, and the bright skies that make our lives delightful; for our friends in all parts of the earth. Give us courage and gaiety and the quiet mind. Spare us to our friends, soften us to our enemies. Bless us, if it may be, in all our innocent endeavors; if it may not, give us strength to endure that which is to come, that we may be brave in peril, constant in tribulation, temperate in wrath, and in all changes of fortune and down to the gates of death, loyal and loving to one another. We beseech of You this help and mercy for Christ's sake.*

—Megan Burns, warden



## Montessori School Report

THE WELLESLEY MONTESSORI SCHOOL is excited to celebrate its 50th year of service to our community and is delighted to continue its longstanding relationship with St. Andrew's. We are deeply grateful for the continued support of St. Andrew's, which has allowed us to provide a high-quality program for children. Over the years, our school has grown to meet the evolving needs of our local community. Our program offerings have expanded, and we now serve children as young as three months of age through kindergarten.

Access to a community-based program is more important now than ever, as families seek a safe and

nurturing place to foster their child's development. As we strive to meet these needs, our teachers and staff are implementing new and innovative ways to offer an authentic Montessori curriculum.

We would like all St. Andrew's parishioners to know that a scholarship fund is available to church members. On behalf of the entire Wellesley Montessori School, I would like to extend a special thanks to the clergy, vestry, Katharine Clark, Joanne Butler, Susan Jackson, Wardie Mannix, Steve Killeen, and Bill Clover for their continued support.

— Vanessa Larkin, M.Ed.,  
Wellesley Montessori School director.

## Parish Register

*Baptisms* Caroline Tess Archibald, Alexis Eve Brigham, Calian John Brigham, Henry John Brigham, Ciara Anwen Cheli, Daniel Murphy Dubé, Owen Phillip Griffith, Theodore Ritchie Harper, Harry Simon Heher, Louisa Anne Nesbitt, and Jordan David Roberts

*Burials* Elizabeth Ball, Richard Paul Bostwick, Pamela Henrikson, Joseph Jankowski, James R. Peters, Marilyn E. Sancomb, Alpheus William Smyrl, Ellen Thayer, Roberta Vock, and Ara Matthew Zusky

*Confirmations* Elmore Alexander, Pam Alexander, Ciara Anwen Cheli, Kara Grace Eichelberger, Sophie Sacri Emerson, Justin Tyler Lin, Peter Stoughton Mahoney, Luke Hopkins Phelps, and Rosemary Wynnychenko

*Marriages* Thaddeus Alan Heuer and JoLynn Cecilia Howe; and Alex Lynn Howells and Matteo Antonio Ursino



Photo: Peter B. Lull

# Nominating Committee Report

## 2025 St. Andrew's Slate of Nominees

### **Ginny Snow, Warden (3-year term)**



Ginny Snow

GINNY AND HER FAMILY have been attending St. Andrew's since 2009. She and her husband, Drew, have three children, Charlotte (21), Anders (19), and Kate (16); all of whom were baptized and confirmed at St. Andrew's. Over the last 15 years, Ginny has served St. Andrew's in many capacities: church school committee, membership committee, Bargain Haul co-chair, and most recently as fellowship vestryperson. A graduate of Trinity College and the Tuck School at Dartmouth (MBA), Ginny previously worked in the investment industry and currently works part-time as Operations Manager for Launchpad Venture Group, a Boston-based angel investment firm. In 2021, she earned her Certification in Meditation and in her free time, Ginny enjoys reading, running, practicing yoga, golf, skiing, paddle, walking her dogs and being with friends.

### **Sam Burns, Vestryperson for Finance (3-year term)**



Sam Burns

SAM AND HIS WIFE MEGAN and son Andrew (17) have been members of St. Andrew's since 2009, and currently live in Sherborn after moving from Wellesley in 2015. Sam has served on the finance committee for the last three years, and has been "first gentleman" to Megan in her role as warden among many other things.

Sam's professional background is in finance, and has run Mill Street Research, an independent investment research firm, since 2016 following many years working at various larger investment firms. A southerner by birth but a northerner by marriage, Sam

grew up in Houston, TX, got an economics degree from Vanderbilt University, and an MBA from the University of Texas at Austin, and is a CFA charterholder. He is also a member of the Boston Economic Club. Thus, he can often be found frolicking among his spreadsheets.

Sam moved from Sarasota, Florida to Boston in the fall of 2004, and takes full credit for the Red Sox winning the World Series that year. Outside of church, God's daily presence is most visible to Sam in the form of the family's dog (named Texas) and two cats (Calvin and Hobbes, both feline philosophers and homage to our favorite comic strip). Sam plays golf badly but enjoys it anyway, and often spends time off in Maine.

### **Betsy Veidenheimer, Vestryperson for Communications (3-year term)**



Betsy Veidenheimer

BETSY AND HER HUSBAND ROB have been attending St. Andrew's since moving from Concord to Wellesley in 2019. They are the parents of four adult sons: Ian, Andrew, Cam, and Tim. Betsy currently serves on both the altar guild and the membership committee. She is an independent educational consultant assisting high school students with their college search and application process. Previously, she was an investor relations officer handling investor communications and financial reporting for Zurich Reinsurance and Fortune Brands. She holds a BA in English Literature from Kenyon College and an MBA from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Betsy is an avid skier and a permanently intermediate golfer. She loves walking the Brook Path with Rob and their dogs.

**Sarah Harris, Vestryperson for Fellowship  
(3-year term)**



Sarah Harris

SARAH, HER HUSBAND GREG, and two children Will (20) and Hadley (17) have been attending St. Andrew’s since moving to Wellesley from Boston 17 years ago. Hadley was baptized at St. Andrew’s and both children were confirmed here. Sarah is

a member of the altar guild and a lay Eucharistic minister. When her children were younger, she taught church school. Previously, she served as clerk of the vestry as well. Greg serves on the finance committee. Professionally, Sarah continues to enjoy a career in elementary education. She’s taught third grade at Baker

School in Brookline for 21 years. Before that, she taught at Brimmer and May School in Chestnut Hill. For Sarah, third graders are the perfect mix of curious, thoughtful, capable, and eager. When Sarah is not teaching multiplication, sharing her favorite picture books or raising trout with her students, she enjoys challenging herself with burpees and box jumps at CrossFit. She is an avid reader and audiobook listener and is always open to recommendations. She enjoys traveling and spending time with her family on the beach in the summer and on the ski slopes in winter. Although she loves living in the Northeast, Sarah is a Midwesterner at heart who travels “home” to Chicago regularly to spend time with her mom, her two older brothers and their families



Photo: Peter B. Lull



# Vestry Committee Reports

## Report of the Vestryperson for Adult Formation

2024 HAS BEEN ANOTHER YEAR of continued momentum and growth for the adult formation committee. Margaret Schwarzer and the committee have laid a solid foundation of programming that has helped foster a vibrant spiritual community. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team, many of whom have served for multiple years, which has allowed us to develop a pool of alternate class leaders and guest speakers. This support has enabled Margaret to curate a rich and diverse programming calendar throughout the year.

Our committee operates collaboratively, as a team of brainstormers and thought partners, crafting thematic programming designed to nurture the spiritual growth of our parish. It's been a joy to see a growing number of regular attendees across our offerings—from the 9am Christian learning series to Bible studies and forums. It's particularly rewarding to see parents of younger children engaging with our Sunday morning programs, supported by childcare provided from 8:55am to 11:15am. This effort is part of our commitment to providing a spiritual respite for busy parents, allowing them to nourish their faith each Sunday.

The year 2024 continued the expanded offerings we initiated in 2023, following insights from the St. Andrew's *RenewalWorks* survey. We focused on topics such as the basics of being an Episcopalian, accessible ways to read and study the Bible, and pathways to deepen personal relationships with God. Our offerings included the 9am Christian learning series, a four-part spring inquirers course, three separate Bible studies (Open Bible Study, Men's Bible Study, and Beginner's Bible Study), and our ongoing Faith & Practice forums, held at 11:30am on select Sundays. These diverse opportunities provide the parish with multiple avenues for spiritual growth.

To help parishioners stay informed about our programming, we created a one-page overview of all adult formation offerings, distributed at the Ministry Fair and available in the corridor outside Margaret's

office. This tool has proven helpful in increasing awareness and engagement within the community.

In the spring, our adult formation offerings included the *2024 Lenten Meditation Guide* (distributed in both booklet and email formats), a Faith & Practice class on *Forgiving Ourselves*, our popular Lenten suppers, and an Easter week Taizé-style service. The Lenten program, themed *Ancient Scripture/Modern Life*, featured five topics:

- *Welcoming the Stranger* with guest speaker Rabbi Rachel Sapphire
- *Finding Freedom: A Modern Take on Repentance*
- *Loving Our Neighbor*
- *Considering Miracles*
- *Turning the Other Cheek*

The potluck dinners were a highlight, so well-attended that we increased our budget for 2025 to provide more catered food! The forum series on anti-semitism, led by Temple Beth Elohim parishioner Eric Rosen, was also a powerful and educational experience for all who attended.

The 9am Christian learning series was well-attended, with a consistent group joining in person and via Zoom. Spring classes included a focus on powerful women in the Anglican/Episcopal Church, including Hilda of Whitby, Florence Li Tim-Oi, and Bishop Barbara Harris. Other spring topics included:

- *The History of Ash Wednesday*
- *The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus on the Cross*
- *Visio Divina, a class on images of resurrection*
- *What is Heaven Like?*
- *Understanding the Eucharist*
- *Just War Theory*
- *Resurrection: What Is It?*

In April, St. Andrew's was invited, along with other Christian churches in Wellesley, to join Temple Beth Elohim for a Shabbat worship service, sanctuary tour, and dinner. This event was a wonderful opportunity for us to strengthen our bonds with the local Jewish community.

In the fall, we offered a Faith & Practice class on *Happiness and the Christian Life*, a field trip to the Boston College Labyrinth, and a screening of *The Philadelphia Eleven* to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Episcopal/Anglican Church. Other offerings included the annual Wellesley Turkey Trot and our December Taizé-style service.

The 9am Christian learning series in the fall focused on reflections of life and faith. The series sparked lively discussion and continued to attract a growing and engaged group of participants. Class topics were

- *The Earliest Christian Art*
- *Early Christian Liturgy in Holy Scripture and the Didache*
- *A New Visual Vocabulary for Christianity: Coventry Cathedral*
- *Doorways, Kitchens, Tombs: Early Christian Household Ritual*
- *Celestial Entities: From Cherubim to Seraphim*
- *Women Leaders in the Church: Ancient and Modern*
- *Passions of the Soul: Temptation Understood by the Early Church*
- *Breaking Open the Nicene Creed I: The History of Its Creation*
- *Considering Parables*

- *A Book Discussion on "The Awakened Brain"*
- *Breaking Open the Nicene Creed II: Meaning*
- *The Taizé Community: 21st Century Soul*
- *Silence: A Medieval Practice We Need in 2024*
- *Experience Christmas Around the World*
- *A Christmas Meditation*

Our Christian learning community continues to evolve, and we are grateful to see newcomers becoming regular attendees who enrich our conversations. We look forward to further strengthening our offerings in 2025.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our committee members for their enthusiastic and supportive efforts: Pam Alexander, Laura Brown MacKinnon, David Guydan, Ansley Martin, Will Nystrom, Paul Shellito, and Sandy Warren. Our work is made more effective because of their dedication. Most importantly, we owe much of our success to the incredible leadership of Margaret Schwarzer, whose kindness, creativity, wisdom, and care are evident in all she does.

We look forward to continuing our work together to plan meaningful and enriching offerings for the parish in the year ahead.

—Carrie Hawley

## Communications Vestry Report

### Parish Photograph Directory

One of the major communications initiatives this year was the publication of the first parish photo directory since before the pandemic. In the past, we used commercial photo directory companies to create directories. This time, we used our in-house Realm database to produce the directory, with parishioners submitting their own photos for inclusion. This approach resulted in increased participation, with more photographs in the directory than in previous editions. Many thanks to our parish administrator, Katharine Clark, for her hard work over the summer in putting the directory together.

### Streaming Services

The streaming of our Sunday services has become an important element of attendance at our worship

services. We have continued to stream our Sunday services on Facebook, our website, and YouTube. We have a committed group of online parishioners who tune in every week, including many from around the country and even some from across the globe. A special thanks to Rob Brandt and his team for their continued commitment to helping St. Andrew's stream.

In addition to streaming our Sunday services, the clergy conduct online Morning Prayer at 8:30am, Monday through Thursday. We have a dedicated group who follow the service live, with many others viewing it at later times throughout the day.

### Realm

Realm, our relatively new online database, continues to see increasing use for event sign-ups and as a church directory. Our youth and church school

programs make significant use of Realm for sign-ups and for registering children for various programs, including Kids' Place, Godly Play, upper school, Rite-13, youth group, and acolytes. Special thanks to Susan Jackson, Sarah Robbins-Cole, and Coryell Urban for their support in managing these registrations.

### **Social Media**

We have increased the number of Instagram posts, which are linked to Facebook, resulting in a growth in our follower base. Our social media content continues to focus on church happenings, including outreach projects, upcoming events, sermon "sneak peeks," and family and children's activities. We also post photo albums of events on the church's Facebook page, thanks to our church photographer, Peter Lull. We continue to check in with the diocese to ensure our social media practices align with their guidelines.

### **The Call**

We continue to produce the Call parish magazine four times a year—at Christmas, Lent/Easter, Sum-

mer, and Autumn. The Call features columns from each of the clergy and the wardens, as well as articles on people and issues of interest to the parish. This year, we bid farewell to Dan Dent, who had served as publisher of the Call for the last ten years. Following a job change, Dan and his wife, Sarah, have moved to Maine and will be greatly missed. On a positive note, we are thrilled to welcome David Guydan as our new publisher. The first edition of the Call under his leadership was the recent Christmas edition.

### **e-Pistle**

This email goes out every Friday as an electronic version of the weekly Sunday bulletin.

### **The Communications Committee**

The communications committee met monthly in 2024, with frequent attendees including our three clergy members, Katharine Clark, and parishioners Rob Brandt, Peter Lull, and Sandra Rigney.

—*Adrian Robbins-Cole*

## **Report of the Vestryperson for Fellowship**

ST. ANDREW'S IS THRIVING and our fellowship events were well attended and appreciated throughout the year.

- In January, we were scheduled to have our wonderful Epiphany service and fireside supper. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate, and the gathering was cancelled.
- February 7, Lynda Sperry and Becky Hamlin hosted a lovely pre-Valentine's Day Tea at the Sperry-Wiberg home for a group of older parishioners. The gathering was appreciated by all.
- February 13, had Shrove Tuesday's Pancake Supper scheduled and Terri Rawson-Wakefield volunteered to lead the charge with Michael Vanin. The youth group was excited to participate with Coryell Urban and Sarah Robbins-Cole helping to oversee the Rite-13 efforts. Unfortunately, a Nor'easter hit on the morning of the event and sadly, the gathering was cancelled.
- March 3 was highlighted by an Evensong reception hosted by Wendy Haering and Margaret Zusky. Parishioners came together to enjoy a beautiful choral service, followed by a lovely reception enjoyed by all.
- March 31 was Easter. Eggs were hidden and many parishioners came to the service.
- May 5 brought Bargain Haul. Wendy Barry and Bob Ware were our leaders and they did an excellent job. Parishioners enjoyed a wonderful parish night on the Friday before and the halls were full of shoppers on Saturday morning. It was a great success that benefitted many of our outreach partners and brought our St. Andrew's community together.
- June 3, Frank Hunnewell welcomed parishioners to the Hunnewell estate to a "Gathering IN the Greens." This popular event was capped at 25 attendees. The Hunnewells' horticulturalist provided an excellent tour of the grounds, and the weather was spectacular.
- September 15, the parish picnic landed on another

of the most perfect weather days. Jenny Sawyer orchestrated the event and seamlessly pulled everything together. She is wonderful and is amazing at coordinating this event—she’s been doing it for the past ten+ years!

- November 1, we enjoyed the St. Andrew’s first Country Western Night, Boots & BBQ. It was a great evening in the parish hall including Blue Ribbon BBQ, drinks, and a night filled with line dancing and fun. We had over 100 attendees and the line dancing was a great success.
- November 28 brought out lots of St. Andrew’s runners for the annual Turkey Trot. Margaret was our fearless leader and gathered the largest Turkey Trot team in town with over 70 runners. Ansley Martin ensured that all had wonderful, red fleece hats with the St. Andrew’s logo and St. Andrew’s offered a water table (staffed by Al & Zebby Dubé) for all runners at about the one mile mark. Wonderful spirit on Thanksgiving morning.
- November 30 was the Gathering of the Greens, which Laura Brown MacKinnon & Bruce MacKinnon helped oversee and manage.
- December 1, JoLynn Heuer offered her expertise on

Sunday morning to anyone who needed assistance in Advent wreath making. We had loads of greens and wonderful creativity in the wreath making.

- December 8, the annual Advent Lessons & Carols reception was hosted by Wendy Haering and Margaret Zusky

I am thankful for the wonderful St. Andrew’s community and also for the support of the fellowship committee and all others involved, both volunteers and participants: Wendy Barry, Barbara Bergstrom, Lacey & Rob Brandt, Kathryn Condon, Sarah Dent, Zebby & Al Dubé, Becky Hamlin, Wendy Haering, Emily & Frank Hunnewell, Luisa Hunnewell, Ntonhle Kekana, Linda & Peter Lull, Hillary Madge, Ansley Martin, Tim Raeke, Terri Rawson-Wakefield & Michael Wakefield, Dot Reed, Sandy Rigney, Jenny & Mark Sawyer, Heather Schaefer, Lynda Sperry, Coryell Urban, Kris & Michael Vanin, Sandy Warren, and Margaret Zusky. And a special note of gratitude to Steve Killeen, Bill Clover, Katharine Clark, and Joanne Butler for their hard work and patience to support all these efforts behind the scenes.

—Ginny Snow

## Financial Report and Budget (see insert)

## Report of the Vestryperson for Human Resources

THE HUMAN RESOURCES (HR) ROLE on the vestry supports the rector and wardens, addressing matters concerning the church’s paid staff. Key responsibilities include developing and maintaining position descriptions, updating the employee handbook, reviewing and proposing salary adjustments, evaluating employee benefit options, and assisting in the recruitment and hiring processes. Though this role may seem more administrative than other vestry positions,

it is essential for aligning the church’s staffing efforts with its mission, vision, and goals.

This role emphasizes recruitment, compensation planning, benefits assessment, and delivering well-researched guidance to the rector. By managing these functions effectively, the HR position helps create a positive and productive work environment that supports the church’s broader objectives.

—Laurin Baldwin



## Report of the Vestryperson for Membership

THIS YEAR, ST. ANDREW'S HAS BEEN BLESSED with many new people attending our services each Sunday. In 2024, we had 36 new households engage us and ask to receive regular communications from our parish. In addition to attending services, many have become actively involved in church school, parish groups, and other activities. Please make a point of introducing yourself to some of the many new faces among you. Many already have permanent name tags that we made for them upon their request.

Our committee hosts various events to bring newcomers together. We also line up welcome greeters and serve as exit greeters to meet and greet visitors after the 10am service. Our goal is to welcome visitors, see if they would like to be on our mailing list, and answer any questions they may have. If interested, we lead them to our coffee hour. We have also created a printed card with a calendar of St. Andrew's events for the year, which we give to interested visitors. Once we can collect information, Margaret reaches out directly to make a personal connection, followed by a phone call or email from someone on our membership committee. We have found this makes newcomers feel immediately a part of our community. We are grateful to those who have volunteered to be welcome greeters before the 10am service as it sets a warm and friendly tone for all those entering our church. It's also a fun way to see familiar faces, get to know new ones, and welcome everyone to worship. If you are interested in being a greeter, please reach out to the membership committee as we are always looking for people and would love to have your involvement.

Our committee also organized newcomer brunches for adults in the spring and again in the fall. This is a wonderful opportunity for new members to socialize with our clergy, music minister, wardens, and membership committee members in an informal setting after church. We also provided childcare and food in the Kids' Place room. In addition, we held two Kids' Place coffees in the spring and fall, which provided an opportunity for families with new babies and toddlers

to gather on the playground after the 10am service. They were both attended by several new young families, who loved being able to connect with each other and have playdates for their young children.

In the spring, the committee hosted the adult Pimm's party at the rectory for newer active members who have been part of St. Andrew's for two years. This event ensures that these members still feel connected and part of our growing parish. We find this event to be a big hit, and we thank Sarah & Adrian for opening their home to us. We enjoyed a vibrant Homecoming Sunday at St. Andrew's this past September, followed by a well-attended parish picnic the following weekend. Membership once again hosted a table with signups for permanent name tags, welcome greeters, Coventry suppers, and coffee hour hosts.

We also hosted a table at the ministry fair on September 22. Another inclusive and fun tradition that membership helps organize is the Coventry suppers. This is a wonderful way to stay connected with one another outside of church and to get to know other parishioners across multiple generations. In the current program year, we have 82 parishioners participating, divided into eight groups. A sincere thank you to the membership committee for their hard work, enthusiasm, and support in 2024. The committee includes veteran members Travis Anza, Connie Barnes, Pam Byron, Elizabeth Clarke, Becky Hamlin, Carrie Hawley, Ntonhle Kekana, Suzanne Nystrom, and Betsy Veidenheimer. We also welcomed four new members this fall: Hope Aldrich, Laurin Baldwin, Angie Johnson, and Sarah Klein. Megan Burns is our warden representative. We also extend a heartfelt gratitude to Margaret Schwarzer, our clergy representative, who is a warm and thoughtful presence to all newcomers and fosters a caring and supportive sounding board to our membership committee.

— Amanda Curtis

# Report of the Vestryperson for Outreach

*Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*

— Matthew 25:40

THE PRIMARY GOAL of St. Andrew's outreach ministry is to put our Christian faith into action. In 2024, we were blessed with many new families and parishioners, so the outreach team has focused on increasing communication about our partners and their work. In addition to weekly announcements, we introduced the "Tree of Outreach" display in the office corridor, created by Al Dubé, and participated in the vestry ministry fair.

## 2024 Outreach Highlights

### 1. *March Family Meal-Packing Event*

More than 75 parishioners packed over 13,000 meals, which were donated to the Pearl Street Cupboard & Café in Framingham. Special thanks to Cam McCormick for her leadership and the planning committee: Zebby & Al Dubé, Greg Hunter, Nancy Jones, and Doug Mizzi. Meals were funded by a \$4,350 allocation from our outreach budget.

### 2. *May Bargain Haul*

In collaboration with the Bargain Haul team, we collected and donated clothing and household items to outreach partners such as St. Stephen's Youth Programs, Family Promise Metrowest, Circle of Hope, and In the Hour of Need. Unsold items were also donated.

### 3. *December Alternative Gift Fair (AGF)*

The AGF raised over \$8,000, allowing parishioners to make donations in lieu of Christmas gifts. Cards were provided to inform loved ones of the gifts made in their honor.

## Local Outreach Partners and Activities

### 1. *Family Promise Metrowest (FPM)*

FPM, supporting families with housing insecurity, received \$2,800 from our outreach budget and will benefit from the 2024 AGF.

### 2. *Salvation Army*

We donated \$2,500 to the Salvation Army in Framingham.

### 3. *Wellesley Food Pantry*

We supported the pantry with the annual Souper Bowl food drive and a \$4,000 donation from our outreach budget. The pantry will also benefit from the 2024 AGF.

## Urban/Boston Outreach Partners and Activities

### 1. *St. Stephen's Episcopal Church*

St. Stephen's, our sister parish, received \$11,000 in financial support. This included:

- \$5,000 for the B-SAFE program and frozen meals.
- B-SAFE Summer Enrichment Program Parishioners, led by Cam McCormick and Karen Pekowitz, hosted youth at St. Andrew's for activities.
- Frozen Meals Volunteers prepared meals for St. Stephen's families during calendar gaps.
- Holiday Dinners Parishioners donated over \$2,500 for holiday dinners and gift bags for seniors.
- Advent Gifts Donations of toys, sporting equipment, and clothes for St. Stephen's Youth Program families.

### 2. *Bridges to Moms Initiative (Brigham and Women's Hospital)*

We supported their prenatal and postnatal care program with a diaper drive and a \$500 donation from our outreach budget, as well as financial support through the AGF.

### 3. *common cathedral*

Supporting underhoused individuals, *common cathedral* holds weekly services at Brewer's Fountain on Boston Common. Under Cam McCormick's leadership, we provided lunch and worship support. We donated \$700 from our outreach budget, with additional AGF support.

### 4. *The Sox Box*

We collected white athletic socks for health reasons, supplemented by a \$500 grant from our outreach budget, and distributed them to homeless shelters and *common cathedral*.

5. *St. Andrew's Stitchers*

This group, coordinated by Donna Kell, has made knitted items for various outreach partners since 2006. In 2024, we sent handmade items to Ukraine, including sweaters, hats, and neck warmers. The group was funded by the AGF and a \$1,000 outreach budget contribution.

6. *The Wily Network*

Supporting college students without family support, we donated \$1,500 from our outreach budget and provided additional support through the AGF.

**International Outreach Partners and Activities**

1. *El Hogar, Honduras*

For over 40 years, El Hogar has provided education to vulnerable children. Bianka Eichelberger, serves on the Board of El Hogar, and acts as St. Andrew's liaison to El Hogar. In 2024, St. Andrew's contributed \$5,000 and supported their programs through the AGF.

2. *Emergency Relief/Episcopal Relief and Development*

We donated \$2,350 for emergency relief efforts.

**2024 Outreach Grants**

In 2024, we distributed \$30,000 in outreach grants to the following organizations in response to grant requests:

- \$2,500 to the Pine Street Inn (2024 Confirmation Class), Boston's largest homeless shelter.
- \$2,500 to Give Directly, Inc. (2024 Confirmation Class), distributing funds to individuals fighting poverty.
- \$5,000 to Boston Healthcare for the Homeless (Judith Boland), serving 10,000 homeless people annually.

- \$5,000 to In the Hour of Need (Laurin Baldwin), supporting at-risk youth in Worcester.
- \$5,000 to Family Nurturing Center (Caroline Condon), offering services to low-income families in Dorchester.
- \$5,000 to Squash Busters (David Hamlin), providing tutoring and athletic training to underserved youth.
- \$5,000 to Hurricane Relief (outreach committee), aiding recovery efforts through St. James Episcopal Church, NC, and Church of the Redeemer, FL.

Grant application materials are available on our website. For more details, contact any member of the outreach committee.

**Closing**

The many opportunities to live our faith make St. Andrew's a vibrant and caring community. Despite the challenging economic climate in 2024, we are grateful for the parish's generous response. Special thanks to the outreach committee members for their dedication: Joy Denomme, Zebby & Al Dubé, Bianka Eichelberger, Jennifer Hanley, Joanna Horobin, Ann Johnson, Donna Kell, Peter Lull, Anne Manners, Paige Manning, Cam McCormick, Debbie Osborn, Madison Riley, Mary Scanlon, Jill & Jack Whiting, Margaret Zusky (communications liaison), warden representative Tom Faust, and clergy representative Adrian Robbins-Cole.

We continue to trust in God's love for strength and perseverance as we put our faith into action in the year ahead.

— *Herb Manning*

**Report of the Vestryperson for Property**

THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE OVERSEES the upkeep and repair of St. Andrew's buildings and grounds, including the church, rectory, residential building at 7 Denton Road, and parking lot. In 2024, we completed several major projects.

The fire and life safety system underwent a significant upgrade, with the replacement of speakers and

strobes throughout the property. Additionally, we repaired and replaced a large section of waste lines that had fallen into disrepair. We also completed a comprehensive property condition assessment with the help of Torrey Architecture, supported by trusted vendors and consultants. This assessment provided us with a clear understanding of both near-term and

long-term repair, maintenance, and capital project needs. We look forward to 2025 and reporting on new projects and initiatives.

We are fortunate to have a capable and dedicated sexton, Steve Killeen, who manages the execution of this work and engages vendors as needed. While Steve often works independently, the property vestryperson plays a consultative role in major projects

and maintains regular communication with him. Much of property management is preventative—ensuring systems and projects are properly maintained to prevent issues before they arise. We value the opportunity to collaborate with fellow vestry members and interested parishioners to carry out our responsibilities effectively.

—Sam Schaefer

## Report of the Vestryperson for Stewardship

THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE BEGAN THE PROCESS of planning the 2025 campaign in May of 2024.

Our 2025 campaign theme is *Committing to Our Future Together*. It speaks to the vitality of St. Andrew's—a parish unique in its strong clergy, in the growth of its membership, and in the strength of our ministries and community activities. We are committing to sustain the vitality of our church, coming together to support the operating expense of everything we do.

The prior year campaign (2024) yielded a total of \$1,122,357 from 274 pledges. The committee set the 2025 campaign goal to raise \$1,200,000 from 280 pledges, a 6.9% and 2.2% increase respectively.

With the growth of new members at St. Andrew's, this year the committee felt it was important to help the congregation better understand "stewardship," a word that Merriam-Webster defines as "conducting, supervising, and managing something." We received questions about pledging, and thus we sought to explain it. While related, "pledging" and "giving" are distinct: "Pledging" is the commitment one makes to St. Andrew's for what will be given in the coming calendar year, and "giving" is the fulfillment of that pledge.

We also strove to explain the stewardship campaign's importance and how it relates to the several other causes for which St. Andrew's raises money during a given year. The stewardship campaign (and

the pledges it seeks) determines funding for the parish's annual operating budget and for the money that St. Andrew's is required to submit to the Diocese of Massachusetts.

The committee decided to once again have a four-week campaign. During that time, we had both written and spoken testimonies, particularly compelling expressions of commitment to our parish.

We continued the weekly publishing of an alphabetical listing of those supporting 2025 in our Sunday bulletin, "St. Andrew's Cheerful Givers," an important way to recognize and thank those who have made a pledge of support.

As we wind down the campaign, I am pleased to report that (through 12/6/2024) we have raised \$1,079,015 million—90% of our goal. We expect we will continue to receive pledges throughout the winter.

I wish to thank all of St. Andrew's for their continued generosity and support of the parish. We are a blessed community with so many committed members and an exceptional clergy. I also thank each member of the stewardship committee for their time, talent, and energy in making the 2025 campaign a success. The members are Connie Barnes, Pam Byron, Joe Hamilton, Ann Johnson, Lou Madge, Michael Vanin, and Adrian Robbins-Cole.

—Madison Riley

# Report of the Vestryperson for Worship

ON VETERAN'S DAY WEEKEND, we ran out of leaflets and wafers at the Sunday 10am service. While this was a minor hiccup, it is a wonderful sign of the vibrance and growth of St. Andrew's services even on a "low attendance Sunday."

The worship committee meets four times a year to prepare for all the services at St. Andrew's, both the typical, making sure there are enough supplies for the 10am service, and the unusual ones. In Advent we experienced the quietness and peace of a Taizé-style evening, the beautiful music of Advent Lessons & Carols, and the enthusiasm and chaos of the Christmas pageant, all capped by the joy and excitement of Christmas Eve, and the new barn service at the Hunnewell Barn on Christmas Day! In Lent, committee members help with the many special services such as Ash Wednesday, Evensong, Taizé-style, Seven Last Words, Tenebrae, Good Friday, Easter Vigil and two huge Easter Day services. Our role is to support and strengthen the efforts of our gifted clergy: Adrian, Margaret, and Sarah.

The creche needs greenery to make it look more beautiful? Members of the flower guild will make time for that project. Gluten-free wafers for some members of our congregation or the travel kit for monthly services at North Hill? The altar guild will quietly prepare these items. A funeral? Ushers will assist both members and newcomers find their way around. Wardie and the senior choir work, Sunday after Sunday, to give us the gift of soaring music to inspire and center us. Did you know that about twenty percent of our Sunday 10am live congregation is virtual (while others access the recordings later), thanks to the efforts of the video team? The recent addition of a second camera greatly improves the experience of viewers. Nor could our services happen without readers puzzling over pronunciations and chalice bearers (or lay Eucharist ministers) offering communion wine. Acolytes bring pageantry and vitality to our worship. In ways both large (St. Andrew's Day flower displays)

and small (delivering a busy bag to a restless child), the members of these worship ministries add to the depth of worship at St. Andrew's.

The worship committee is made up of a collection of different ministries: acolytes, music, ushers, video team, chalice bearers, readers, and the flower and altar guilds. For the first time in several years, we can report that each of these ministries is fully recovered from COVID. For instance, we have four teams of acolytes assigned to each Sunday of the month. We are also delighted to report on the successful rebirth of our children's choir. Nonetheless, all these committees welcome new members and work continuously to incorporate and train new recruits. Our goals are to both build friendship bonds and provide for deepening faith through service. In this regard, we are especially grateful to our clergy for providing counsel, prayer, and support, often by attending meetings and discussing future endeavors. Part of what makes folks enjoy these ministries is the teamwork involved, both within each group and among related efforts.

We are grateful to the efforts of these many people who make our worship happen:

- Adrian, Margaret, Sarah, and Karen
- Katharine Clark, Steve Killeen, Bill Clover, Susan Jackson, and Joanne Butler
- Terri Rawson-Wakefield and her 27 ushers
- Benedict Hensley and his nine small singers
- Suzy Littlefield and her 24 chalice bearers and 14 readers
- Elizabeth Clarke and her 36 altar guild members
- Wendy Barry and her 16 acolytes
- Wardie Mannix and her 29 senior choir members, including seven paid section leaders
- Rob Brandt and his four video technicians
- Katie Barrack and her 20 members of the flower guild

—*Erica Gelser*

## Memorial Rose Garden Report

SINCE ITS CONSECRATION ON JUNE 14, 1998, there have been 62 burials in the Memorial Rose Garden. We are deeply grateful to Wardie Mannix, who has been tending to the roses with the assistance of our sexton, Steve Killeen. In addition to thanking Wardie for her skilled and faithful care, we also extend our gratitude to everyone in the congregation who has contributed to the creation and ongoing maintenance of this beautiful garden.

We invite all members of the congregation to learn more about the Memorial Rose Garden. My thanks go to the garden's administrators: Megan Burns and Tom Faust (wardens), Joe Hamilton (treasurer), Sam Schaefer (vestryperson for property), and Katharine Clark (parish administrator).

*Burials in 2024* Carol Shedd and Ara Matthew Zusky

—Adrian Robbins-Cole

## Report of the Vestryperson for Youth Formation

2024 WAS A YEAR FULL OF EXCITEMENT AND ENERGY in youth formation. We have had the privilege of leadership from Rev. Dr. Sarah Robbins-Cole as our Associate Rector for Youth and Family. We have been blessed to have Sarah's dedication, knowledge, and empathy guided our youth this year. Susan Jackson continued to support the church school and youth programs in her role as Christian learning coordinator. Finally, our passionate committee of D.D. Alexander, Stephanie Mitchell, Heather Schaefer, Elizabeth Svedlund, Anna Lee Wahls, and Coryell Urban, has dedicated many hours, for which we are most grateful.

Over the course of the year, we have happily seen the number of children in our educational programs grow substantially, including many from families new to St. Andrew's. We are seeing increased participation in our programs and events, and a thriving community of families. Our beloved St. Andrew's traditions, such as Parent Circle, Celebrating the Passover Story, All Hallow's Eve, and Cookies & Carols have been joyful, packed events for all ages.

The committee has expanded the ways in which we serve youth and their families. For example, we have added a children's choir, directed by Benedict Hensley. Participants follow a program based on The Royal School of Church Music curriculum and they sing during the 10am service once a month. For all women of the parish, including mothers of school aged children,

we launched Soul Sisters, "a Christ-centered ministry that encourages women across the country to grow in their faith," in the fall of 2024. Under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Sarah Robbins-Cole, Soul Sisters has held three spiritual and fulfilling events, including delivering flower arrangements to the homebound and a labyrinth walk at Wellesley College.

In terms of classroom learning, we have continued to build our collection of Godly Play stories to help children explore their faith. We continue to refine the upper school and Rite-13 curricula to create more meaningful learning experiences and foster a positive learning environment. As the number of children and youth participating in our programs has grown over the past year, we have welcomed many new teachers. For our high schoolers, youth group is in full swing, meeting weekly and participating in exciting events like the farewell party for Bishop Alan Gates at the New England Aquarium.

A detailed report of the specific programming has been submitted by Rev. Dr. Sarah Robbins-Cole.

St. Andrew's youth are an essential part of our parish. We depend upon the many who volunteer every week to teach and mentor them. Thank you to all who give their time to this important ministry. We look forward to 2025!

—Pamela Grossetti





Photo: Peter B. Lull



# ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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