



2024  
ANNUAL REPORT

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## Rector's Report

Submitted by Jay MacLeod

As usual, I've left my annual report to the last minute. Happily, the draft of Alice Perry's photographic year in review just popped into my inbox. Viewing her slides, I'm reminded of the many shining moments — the little epiphanies of God's grace — that illuminate our journey as a community of faith. These moments, both grand and quiet, remind us how Christ's light shines through and among us.

There were shining moments aplenty in our church sanctuary; here are a just a few:

- Young choristers, candles in hand, leading “This little light of mine” at Candlemas;
- The stillness and shared communion of Monday meditators;
- Our choir leading a final hymn with Will, Nicole and Kathy adding an epic postlude;
- Funerals where “unchurched” mourners are surprised to encounter the living God;
- Entering deeply into the rhythms of Holy Communion through instructed Eucharists;
- Holy Week worship where the love of the crucified and risen Christ rubs off on us;
- Youth Choir benefit concert that packed St. Andrew's and overflowed with the Spirit;
- 19 candidates enveloped by prayer at Bishop Rob's visit.

And what about the “aha” moments in our parish hall? *Babette's Feast*, Braver Angels events, “Composing a Life,” Jared on Israel/Palestine, Kathleen on *The Chosen*, Summer Fair, Navajo spirituality, Jorge leading paperless singing, St. Nicholas Fair, Bible Study on Tuesdays, God 101, AA meetings, senior lunches and much more!

Some of the brightest lights shone from St. Andrew's into the wider community, starting with our Thrift Shop and extending to the Sudan. Our Last Sunday Offerings raised more than \$128,000 in 2024! As we reflect Christ's love to our neighbors, we find ourselves enriched. Just ask the crew who staff the Friendly Kitchen or help out with the Phillips Brooks Partnership or host Voorhees scholar/interns. Cropwalkers, crafty critters, youth choir volunteers, Thanksgiving basket donors, Christmas tree givers and windowdressers — each act of kindness is a small epiphany of God's presence in our world.

Glowing acts of service often take place outside of the spotlight. Think of our altar guild, verger, and buildings and grounds teams. So many people shine in unseen ways — arranging flowers, washing dishes, baking for coffee hour, stacking chairs, folding bulletins, proofreading parish emails: thank you for your quiet radiance.

As we step into 2025, let us continue to seek and reflect Christ's light, bringing hope and joy to one another and the world around us. I'm grateful for your faith, dedication and generosity.

Jay MacLeod, Rector

## Warden's Report

Submitted by Claire Pace and Nancy Rollins

As the yearly cycle of our church life for 2024 comes to a close we wish to acknowledge the many accomplishments achieved in our faith community of St. Andrew's. We remain mission directed in all of our many ministries and the vestry works with our rector and the church as a whole to live out our mission of love of God and neighbor.

It is through the efforts of many dedicated members of this congregation that St. Andrew's is blessed to be able to offer the many programs and activities that enrich all of our lives and deepen our spiritual life. The following were accomplished in 2024:

—Foyer groups met in the homes of many members of the congregation. These groups foster hospitality, community and fellowship.

—On 1/8/24 the Youth Choir began to gather under the direction of Mrs. Nicole Densmore. We were thrilled with the response from the community. This new program was partially funded by a grant written by our rector and funded by our diocese.

—The Chosen film series aired in May 2024 and the Rev. Kathleen Rusnak led eight classes that explored the many lessons that this series contains about the gospels in the context of the Jewish and Roman world at the time of Jesus.

—The Rev. Jay MacLeod led the series God 101 from 10/20 to 11/17 to prepare participants for confirmation and to broaden knowledge and understanding related to the Episcopal Church.

—Jared Goldfarb, a Jewish educator from Israel, taught two classes, 4/7 and 4/17 as follows: "How Odd of God to Choose the Jews", and "From Romans to Rebels to Rabbis".

—Considerable time was spent with the Montessori school discernment. This was a thorough process that included all stakeholders. The outcome was a vestry nay vote on 3/21.

—Again this year, the Phillip Brooks Program that brings youth from Boston to our area was conducted on 7/17-18, and 7/31-8/1. Many volunteers made this a great experience for inner city youth.

—A skills and talent survey was released 1/28/24. Ninety-five surveys were returned, and the information was gathered and summarized for use by our rector and vestry leadership to guide wise recruitment of church volunteers that matches congregant gifts and talents.

—With many new members having joined St. Andrew's, a new church directory was published and distributed in October.

—The "Composing a Life Group" under the leadership of Alison Seward uses a book club format to look at issues around transitions in life. Likewise, Faith and Issues, led by Rev. Katrina Wagner, stimulates learning about, and discussions relevant to our faith and issues related to our world.

—Again, in November of this year WindowDressers used our facility to build and provide window inserts to save on heating costs.

—Braver Angels leaders continued their work here at St. Andrew's but also at our local high school and at various sites in New Hampshire to foster better communication at a time of polarizing politics.

—Hospitality and fellowship were fostered through the men's breakfasts, women's breakfasts, and summer cookouts and a senior luncheon.

—A Voorhees University intern joined us again for six weeks in June and July with the help of many volunteers who provided housing and coaching. She was paid a stipend for her internship as well as a scholarship.

—Weekly bible study started 10/24 under the leadership of Jared Goldfarb and our rector. This study began with the book of Genesis.

—In September two groups of congregants participated in a weeklong pilgrimage along St. Cuthbert's Way.

—The Congregational Care Committee was formed in order to respond to the needs of members of the congregation that are experiencing challenges in their lives.

Additionally, we remain grateful for the rich liturgy, worship, prayer opportunities that are offered by our rector every week, helping all of us in our spiritual journeys.

We are grateful for the vision, the dedication and the continuous involvement and contributions of many who have made St. Andrew's a faith community that lives out Jesus's way of love.

*Claire and Nancy*

### **Music at St. Andrew's**

Submitted by William Ogmundson

2024 was a great year for music at Saint Andrew's, and the choir continues to grow and flourish. We were very sad to lose Chuck Thompson this past year and will keep his memory in our hearts. We were thrilled though to welcome Gene Weber to the bass section, and Ginger Milord to the tenor section. The 10am service positively shimmers with musical brilliance, largely due to the tireless efforts of the choir. Jennifer Giles continued to do an absolutely stellar job singing at the 8am service, with Russ Potter as her trusty stand in.

As usual, many soloists enlivened the services. Nicole continued to add her musical flair on the flute, and it was wonderful to have Kathy Thomas at many services this year. Also memorable was Faith Goodness playing flute and saxophone on two occasions, but my personal favorite was Saint Andrew's Day, when we started and ended the service with Jim Aubuchon playing the bagpipes, with Rachel Clemente playing Celtic harp in between.

For many congregants, the first Sunday of the month was their favorite to attend, because the Youth Choir would sing. They began singing two parts this year, and the adult choir particularly enjoyed getting to perform with them. They brought a wonderful energy and enthusiasm, under Nicole's leadership!

Will hopes to continue to grow the choir and also begin a Choral Scholar's Program in 2025.

## Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Michael Quinn, Treasurer

At this writing, we have our preliminary results. There will likely be some adjustment, but the overall picture is representative of our performance. In 2024, we saw our congregation's financial support mix change a bit. Pledge revenue was off, but this was more than offset by other gifts.

On the expense side, we spent a bit more than budgeted. This was concentrated in buildings expenditures. However, a good portion of these expenses were funded through some targeted giving.

It is important to note that we budgeted for enough carry-over of the 2023 surplus to bring us to a breakeven outcome. The numbers below do not include any of that carry-over. As can be seen, we were able to show preliminary results quite close to breakeven.

	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Pledges (prior & current)	\$398,165	\$435,000
<b>Total Operating Revenue</b>	<b>\$580,963</b>	<b>\$534,600</b>
Investment Income	54,867	59,505
Personnel Expense	\$347,778	\$354,701
Administration/Finance	179,475	166,654
Buildings & Grounds	77,698	42,248
Program Expense	33,786	52,974
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$638,737</b>	<b>616,577</b>
<b>Net Surplus/(Deficit) before Outreach</b>	<b>\$(2,907)</b>	<b>\$(22,472)</b>
Outreach revenue	\$117,105	\$89,000
"Last Sunday" beneficiary grants	\$101,829	\$88,000
Other Outreach expenditures	\$16,922	\$24,736

Particularly gratifying is the growth in our mission giving, sharing our blessings locally, with other Americans in need, and internationally.

Finally, as of this writing, we received pledge commitments of \$461,300. This provides strong support to a budget that reflects our commitment to and investment in a growing, vital St. Andrew's.

## **Youth Music at St. Andrew's**

Submitted by Nicole Densmore, Director

We launched an exciting and bold initiative to engage more young people and families at St. Andrew's, offering children the opportunity to grow musically, socially, emotionally, and spiritually through our Youth Choir. This program allows them to sing of God's love and build a relationship with Jesus.

The initiative has been a resounding success, with 64 choristers participating in at least one of the three sessions offered in 2024. The spring session choristers performed on the first Sunday of February, March, April, May, and June. In the fall, they sang in October and November, followed by a small group of tone chime ringers who rehearsed in December for a special performance on Christmas Eve at the 4pm service.

Five choristers with nearly perfect attendance, whose dedication earned them campership support, took the opportunity to attend the Barbara C. Harris Camp, an Episcopal summer overnight camp, where they spent a week growing in faith and fellowship.

I am deeply grateful to the staff and volunteers whose dedication and support have made this all possible: Jay MacLeod, Brenda Rappeport, Kathy Thomas, Ellen and Gardner Yenawine, Alice Perry, Joseph Watrous, Panny Nichols, Alison Seward and her family, Paul and Patsy Catsos, Dale Milne, Nina Rogers, Jim Sims, Nonie Reynders, Kathy and Jim Mathias, Shelly Boucher, Marni and Nick Eaton.

Looking ahead, I am filled with hope and enthusiasm for the continued growth of this program. It is a true privilege to share this special experience with my music students, and I am excited to see how God will continue to work through this ministry.

## **Craft Group and Fairs**

Submitted by Rosie Best

We had a very successful year with our Summer and St. Nicholas Fairs. In the Spring we were able to collect many priceless items for the Attic Treasure Table. The day of the fair was beautiful and people came out to "dunk-the-rector," enjoy barbecue and strawberry shortcakes.

After the Fair, the Craft Group took a break for the summer. We resumed in the fall season to plan for the St. Nicholas Fair. We had Santa present for the youngsters and they had a fun time in Santa's Woodshop. We provided a delicious lunch, had many wonderful selections from the Bake Table and many choices at the Craft Table. Let's not forget the Cheese Table, which is always a "sellout"!

Last but not least we had a "Cookie Walk" the Sunday before Christmas, where all the profit went to "Outreach." Thanks for all your participation and generous donations.

## **Buildings and Grounds**

Submitted by Harvey Best

The committee was busy in 2024 with some interesting challenges:

A major effort was spent on investigating the feasibility of a Montessori – type Day Care Center to be housed in our church basement. Professionals were asked to lay out a floor plan within our basement footprint to satisfy the necessary child requirement. Contractors estimated costs for alterations to restrooms and other structural modifications.

A taskforce was formed to study the ramifications of a Day Care Center and the effects on St. Andrew's and our surrounding community. The proposal was not approved by Vestry in Spring. Another project involved the relocation of our underground electric supply cable. Our supplier, Eversource, required that the power meter had to be accessible from outside our building. This meant a meter had to be installed on a permanent structure near the swing set on the outside wall. Major rewiring was needed in the basement to accommodate the new supply cable. This also rerouted the Solar Panel connections previously installed by Revision Solar.

Stonework was worked on through the Memorial Garden. This work resulted in a level path that will eventually tie in with a paved walkway from driveway, through Garden and ending at the rear Patio. This will allow handicap accessibility from Parking lot into the Patio area.

Excavation was also done on the front wall of the church foundation. This work exposed the foundation enough to install a waterproofing “blanket” against the wall to direct groundwater down and into foundation drain. New drainage pipes were installed and the excavation filled and graded.

The asphalt parking lot was resealed, and the parking designations were painted.

The Children's Choir requested a wooden platform to expand the floor space in front of the altar. With the increased number of singers, more space was necessary. We built the portable unit to be carried into position and removed easily, as needed.

In late September the church basement suffered a flood in the area of the two restrooms and classroom #3. Rainwater flooded down through a ventilation shaft. The resulting flood was caused by faulty installation of a rain gutter. The contractor admitted fault and a damage claim was submitted.

The area was immediately vacuumed and dehumidified. At present, some drywall has been replaced and walls painted, and floors recovered

## **Altar Guild**

Submitted by Becky Rylander & JoAnn Hicks, Co-chairs

The ministry of the Altar Guild is to prepare the sanctuary for services, care for the altar linens, and prepare for special services. Following services, we clean up and deliver altar flowers. Members are assigned to one of three teams and each team serves for 2 weeks at a time. There are usually two members serving at each service.

New members are always welcome. As we start the new year, we especially need members who attend Sunday's 10:00 service. Maybe there is a small voice speaking to you asking you to serve in a small way. This might be the way. If interested, speak to any member or after a service stop in the sacristy to see what we are doing. New members are paired with more experienced members and training is freely provided.

After many years of serving St. Andrew's in many ways including on the Altar Guild, Janet Miller Haines is about to move away. We will miss her helpfulness and friendship! Thank you, Janet!

Current members are:

Rosie Best, Judy Brown, Diane Caldwell, Marni Eaton, Lisa Gover, Janet Miller Haines, Fifi Mitchell, Claire Pace, Marilyn Paradis, Alice Perry, Lin and Emmy Potter, Becky Rylander, Lynn Salo, Joanne Schuyler, & JoAnn Hicks.

## **The Network Newsletter**

Submitted by Alice Perry, Editor

*The Network* is St. Andrew's bi-monthly newsletter and regularly features "Jay's Say," from our Rector on page one. It also includes "Wardens' Words," parish updates such as marriage, memorial service and baptism, and you will see upcoming birthdays listed. Contributions from all of the groups represented in this annual report, highlights and photos of recent activities, a two-month calendar plus some Diocesan news, an occasional "lay contemplation" piece, items of community interest and suggestions for community service and outreach are all featured as well.

Each issue is posted on our website at [www.standrewsnl.org](http://www.standrewsnl.org) under the Inform tab close to the first day of the odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September and November) with notification arriving within a standard parish email. (Please be sure the office has your current email address.) Printed hard copies are also available. Please check out the current issue if you haven't already – lots of people have worked hard to provide you with important information and items of interest.

The newsletter welcomes your submissions. To ensure timeliness, the announced deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> or shortly after of even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October and



December) – although extensions are readily granted. You are encouraged to share something of interest with our parish community by sending text in Word format and/or photos (jpg) electronically to the editor at perry46@tds.net. Please let me know if you would like to be added to the distribution list for emailed reminders before each issue. Thanks to everyone who has or will help keep the church community informed of our mission, our programs, our people, our service: all that constitutes the life of the church. – *Alice Perry, Editor*

## **Eucharistic Service Ministers** **Ushers, Acolytes, Lectors, Intercessors, and Eucharistic Ministers**

Submitted by Anne Hall, Verger

A licensed Eucharistic Minister assists the rector with the administration of the sacraments during Sunday and other Eucharistic services. The rector initiates an initial Eucharistic Minister license should an individual wish to serve. It is approved by the vestry and sent to the Bishop for approval. An individual must be 16, trained by the rector and the verger after the license is approved. Thanks to, Marni Eaton, Anne Hall, JoAnn Hicks, Mark Kellett, Nola Jordan, Claire Pace, Alice Perry, Emmy Potter, Theresa Quinn, Karen Floyd Shepherd, and Gardner Yenawine for serving as Eucharistic Ministers. We bid a fond farewell to Nola, who is moving.

Many thanks to Pat Kocher, Paul Catsos, Seelye Longnecker, Susie & Jim Aubuchon, Billy & Lisa Kelly, Susan Schweizer, Susan & Jack Feyrer, Mary Bayerl & Peter Ruth, JoAnn Hicks, Diane Caldwell, Rosie & Harvey Best, Maureen Strachan, Louise & John Moses, Jackie Thompson, Marilyn Paradis, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Gail Goddard, Tina & Bill Helm, and Ellen & Gardner Yenawine who served as ushers in the past year at both Sunday services and other services such as a celebration of life. Basically ushers keep the service running smoothly starting with greeting those arriving while keeping the sanctuary quiet prior to the service. They seat latecomers at an appropriate time, present the elements, collect and present the offering, regulate the traffic flow to and from communion, and assist the Altar Guild with cleanup after the service. The list may look long but it covers those who served at one of the two services and maybe both. There are times when it becomes shorter due to vacations etc. New ushers are welcome and would receive instructions on serving this ministry. Please email [verger@standrewsnl.org](mailto:verger@standrewsnl.org) if you would like to serve.

If a person is willing to serve as an acolyte and is at least 8, St. Andrew's will provide training. As an acolyte, individuals light and extinguish candles, carry the cross as crucifer or bear the torches, participate in the Gospel processional, assist the presider preparing the altar for communion, handle the collection plates, assist the presider after communion. We thank James Wassell who is serving at the 8 am service along with JoAnn Hicks, Marni Eaton, and Anne Hall. Serving at the 10 am service are Aldyn and Kelby Frenkiewich, Cecelia and Anne Kellett, Claire Pace, Gardner Yenawine, and Lynn Salo. Our thanks go out to them and those chalice bearers who carried torches when needed. If you would like to serve St. Andrew's as an acolyte or have any questions, please contact the verger at [verger@standrewsnl.org](mailto:verger@standrewsnl.org).

Although the roster of intercessors and lectors is large, new volunteers are always welcome. With vacations and some taking a leave, there are times the roster shrinks. Training is provided

to those who wish to serve as a reader. There is no age requirement. As with the other ministries, in addition to serving during the Sunday services, both are called to serve at other services throughout the year. Our thanks are extended to Jim & Susie Aubuchon, Harvey Best, Sharon Blain, John Bouton, Suza Bowser, Missy Carroll, Jody Cooper Rubin, Joe Daly, Marni Eaton, Ginny & Randy Foose, Gail Goddard, Ayla & Kylin Frenkiewich, Janet Miller Haines, Tina & Bill Helm, JoAnn Hicks, Mark Kellett, Pat Kocher, Elizabeth Lowell, Bob Lyon, Julie Machen, John & Lou Moses, Alice Perry, Russ Potter, Nancy Rollins, Nina Rogers, Becky Rylander, Susan Schweizer, Andy Seward, Karen Floyd Shepherd, Leslie Smith, Maureen Strachan, Jackie Thompson, Katrina Wagner, Ellen & James Wassell, Loa Winter, Ellen & Gardner Yenawine. We thank Janet Miller Haines for all the years she served and wish her well in her new home. Please contact the verger at [verger@standrewsnl.org](mailto:verger@standrewsnl.org) if you would like to serve as a lector or intercessor. The early service definitely could use more!

### **Eucharistic Visitors**

Submitted by Ginny Register

A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements of the Communion to homebound parishioners. Each Eucharistic Visitor should receive Safe Church training, undergo a background check, and receive training in the parish. They should also be endorsed by the Vestry and licensed by the Bishop.

We provide time for homebound church members to take a moment out of their lives to pause and connect with the Holy Spirit while they receive the Body and Blood of Christ. Most of the visits are monthly, some are quarterly, and a few may be weekly. Sunapee Cove residents are also served on the 4th Sunday of the month by Pastor Jay and during most of 2024 by Eucharistic Visitors Ginny and Russ Register. In 2024 active Eucharistic Visitors were: Fifi Mitchell, Bill Morgan, Claire Pace, Alice Perry, Ginny and Russ Register, Nonie Reynders, Jackie Thompson, Gardner Yenawine and Pastor Jay.

Being a Eucharistic Visitor enables us to visit socially with a St. Andrew's parishioner, and also to connect on a deeper, more spiritual level. If you think you might want to become a Eucharistic Visitor, or would like to receive Home Communion, please contact Pastor Jay at [jay@standrewsnl.org](mailto:jay@standrewsnl.org) or by phone at 603-748-8754 or at church at 603-526-6344.

### **Coffee Hour Hosts**

Submitted by Louise Moses

Many, many thanks to all the hosts and bakers who have stepped up to make our 10 o'clock coffee hour so wonderful. Also, many thanks to Janet Miller Haines for all she did for the refreshments following the 10am service. John and I took over as coordinators upon Janet's request to retire. The many wonderful volunteers at St. Andrew's have made this an easy job.

We started by dividing up the jobs between Hosts and Bakers. The Hosts get the coffee ready, set up for the refreshments, clean up after the coffee hour and run the dishwasher. The Bakers bring goodies each and every week. There is never a shortage of wonderful baked goods, fresh fruit, cheese and crackers, deviled eggs and more. On the first Sunday of the month, when the Youth Choir sings, we have extra help to serve the children supervised by John Ellis and John Moses. We have plenty of food and drink for the children who are always very hungry after singing. This combination appears to be working well and has lessened the burden of hosting coffee hour by spreading out the responsibilities. If you would like to be included please sign-up. We are happy to have more hosts and bakers even some who like to do both.

### **Faith and Issues**

Submitted by Katrina Wagner

2024 marked the eighth year that Faith and Issues met via Zoom on Saturday mornings from 9:00-10:30 to share our thoughts on a variety of books that offer insights into our country's ever evolving sense of itself as well as our places and duties on the world scene.

We've aimed to become more aware not only of many of the obvious challenges that are before us but also to gain understanding, direction and comfort from the strengths of those who have come before us or are now wrestling with many of the same concerns and priorities.

Among the books we have tackled: *Genesis* by Marilynne Robinson; *We Are the Leaders We Have Been Looking For* by Eddie Glaude; *The Book of Luke*; *How to Know a Person* by David Brooks; *Elijah*, The Rev'd Jay MacLeod's working manuscript; *The Kingdom, the Power and The Glory* by Tim Alberta; Thomas Merton; *The Alignment Problem* by Brian Christian.

At the moment we have a core group of around 9 who meet regularly via Zoom. Others join us via email to see what's going on. Please feel free to participate in any way that feels comfortable for you. We also take a number of breaks during the year to be with family and friends. We'd love to have you join us!

### **Composing a Life**

Submitted by Alison Seward

St. Andrew's introduced a new book group in 2024. Called "Composing a Life" (the name stolen from Mary Catherine Bateson), the group reads and discusses books with a focus on how to live well in the last decades of life. This year, the group discussed a range of books:

- *The Gift of Years* by Joan Chittester
- *On the Brink of Everything* by Parker Palmer
- *Telling Secrets* and *The Sacred Journey* by Frederick Buechner

- *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning* and *The Swedish Art of Aging Exuberantly* by Margareta Magnusson
- The fiction of Wendell Berry, reader's choice
- *How We Learn to be Brave*, by Mariann Edgar Budde
- *The Four Things That Matter Most*, by Ira Byock
- *Why Religion? A Personal Story*, by Elaine Pagels
- *Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End*, by Atul Gawande

Alison Seward, who proposed the group to Jay and who has facilitated the meetings, has this to say:

“The *Composing a Life* group has enriched my life in so many ways. Not only am I reading interesting, thought-provoking books, but I’m inspired at every meeting by parishioners who embody the lessons promoted by Chittester and Palmer – teach, learn, reflect, stay involved. I’ve discovered authors new to me (thank you Holley Eaton and Karen Floyd Shepherd), and have shared one of my favorite authors, Wendell Berry, with others. At every meeting, my communion with other parishioners is deepened and my faith journey informed. I’ve had my mind opened to the possibility of miracle (thank you Elizabeth Lowell and Alice Perry); have understood better the power of the Prayers of the People (thank you Jennifer Giles); have considered Byock’s message as a mantra or meditation – *Please forgive me, I forgive you, Thank you, I love you* – (thank you, Bill Helm).

“Additionally, my increased participation in the life of the church beyond Sunday mornings has given me a much greater appreciation for just how many people devote countless hours to serving our church community in so many ways. I apologize for not having recognized this before.

“I am grateful to all who have participated in *Composing a Life* this year, and look forward to our continued journey together in 2025.”

### **Landscape & Garden Committee**

Submitted by Mary Eysenbach

It was a year of ups and downs. The ups were the wonderful volunteers who watered and weeded in ways my aging knees no longer permit. Special thanks are due to Judy Brown for keeping the front garden in order. Another up was the finished landscaping around the new patio- or almost finished: the stonework under the deer still awaits. The downs were several, especially the damage to the young maple caused by a violent micro-burst. Also, the cotoneasters by the front retaining wall were killed by the drainage workers leaving us with an improved view of the asphalt parking area.

I am stepping back from the position as head of the Landscape Committee. I hope someone will soon step forward soon and will be glad to help out as much as I can.

## **Braver Angels**

Submitted by Woody Canaday

St. Andrew's Braver Angels Team includes David Balford, Jeannie Sperry, Jennifer Giles, Peter Ruth, Paul Catsos, and Woody Canaday, with Jay as our advisor. The group was formed in 2022 in response to an invitation by Bishop Rob Hirschfeld and retired Bishop Mark Beckwith, who is active with Braver Angels at the national level.

We are committed to depolarizing public and private discourse through workshops, discussions and debate. In these venues, we learn and practice skills for communicating with people we disagree with – including looking for common values so that we “respect the dignity of every human being” as our baptismal covenant calls us to do.

In 2024, St. Andrew's hosted a skills workshop moderated by Jeannie Sperry and Paul Catsos (45 attendees); a showing of the movie *Join or Die* (60) followed by a zoom discussion led by the NH Braver Angels Alliance; a statewide Volunteers Cookout; and an in-person Debate of the resolution: *The Upcoming Election Threatens our Republic* (50).

Team members were increasingly engaged regionally and statewide. The NH Braver Angels Alliance, co-led by Paul Catsos, held monthly zoom discussions of challenging topics. Paul also co-moderated two workshops at the NH State House, at the request of the Granite Bridge Legislative Alliance.

Jennifer, Jay, and Paul participated in three events for KRHS's Extended Learning Opportunity Program – Jay was pleased that for the final meeting, students chose the topic of spirituality to provide context for using the LAPP (Listen-Acknowledge-Pivot-Perspective) skills they learned in the second session.

Woody, David, and Peter regularly contribute to the sharing of ideas and best practices among Episcopal churches that are active with Braver Angels. The Braver Reconcilers group meets online monthly, under the guidance of Mark Beckwith.

Our plans for 2025 are in development. Members of St. Andrew's can participate in this work of reconciliation by practicing the LAPP skills they have learned in workshops, and participating in events hosted by St. Andrew's, in zoom discussions held by the NH Alliance (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/722086642993465>), and in online workshops and debates (<https://www.braverangels.org> - \$12 annual membership). If you are interested in training as a Moderator, Debate Chair, Organizer, or Ambassador, please speak with any of the team members.

## **Green Committee**

Submitted by Ed Hoyt

The solar array had robust production in 2024. St. Andrew's solar array was designed to produce an average of 19,000 kWh annually. An estimate for the first 12 months of continuous production is 21,600 kWh! This estimate is for the 12 months commencing 2/7/2024, the date a new meter was installed. Solar production can vary from year to year due to several factors including the number of days that are cloudy or that the grid is covered by snow.

In November, for the second year in a row, St. Andrew's hosted the Kearsarge Community Build. The parish hall was buzzing with activity as low-cost window inserts were assembled for local families. This project was supported by the non-profit WindowDressers and was led by local sponsoring groups Kearsarge Climate Action and Kearsarge Neighborhood Partners. Recipient families participated in the work and were joined by volunteers from the sponsoring organizations, Rotary Club, and St. Andrew's.

### **Thrift Shop**

Submitted by Jackie Thompson and JoAnn Lyon, Co-Managers

The Thrift Shop continues to thrive. Again this year, JoAnn and I have shared the duties as co-managers. Because we work so well together, when I had to step away when my husband passed away, JoAnn kept things running most efficiently. We continue to feel proud to be involved in the thrift shop.

We've said this before, but we have the best volunteers, consistently giving of their time to help with all aspects of the thrift shop. The average age is in the 80's, and each and every one is 100% willing to volunteer for their shift and/or cover someone else's when needed.

When JoAnn and Jackie go through the process of changing seasonal clothing in the shop, several volunteers offer to come in and help fill those bags for Listen, a thrift shop in Lebanon, where we donate our non-saleable items for resale. Two special volunteers take these bags to Listen whenever we need their help. We welcomed a new volunteer, Mo Jevne, who started as a substitute and just recently moved up agreeing to fill a slot vacated by our beloved Janie Webster, who has asked to move into a substitute position.

Our bag sales and BOGO sales are the most popular special events we offer. We try to have something on sale as often as possible, which includes clearance racks at the end of a season. For the first time last year we chose to present a \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior at Kearsarge Regional High School. The recipient was chosen based on her outstanding number of volunteer hours and community service, a criterion we felt was fitting based on the fact that the thrift shop is run solely by almost twenty volunteers.

Our donations total \$13,500 for 2024.

#### **SUMMARY OF 2024 THRIFT SHOP DONATIONS**

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH	\$10,000
SCHOOL NURSES EMERGENCY FUND	\$ 2,500
KEARSARGE REGIONAL PARTNERS	\$ 500
KEARSARGE HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP	<u>\$ 500</u>
TOTAL FOR 2024:	\$13,500

## The Outreach Commission

Submitted by Elizabeth Lowell

With great delight, the Outreach Commission reports that St. Andrew's contributed \$128,008 to projects beyond the parish. The extraordinary generosity of parishioners has significantly enabled the vital missions of the following entities:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Offering</u>	<u>Recipient</u>	<u>With match</u>
Jan-24	\$5,561	AFEDJ--Ahli Arab Hospital	\$11,122
Feb-24	\$4,528	TLC Family Resource Center	\$9,056
Mar-24	\$5,307	Overcomers	\$10,614
Apr-24	\$11,274	St. Vincent's Center, Haiti	\$22,548
May-24	\$4,013	Voorhees University	\$8,026
Jun-24	\$3,549	Got Lunch Newport	\$7,098
Jul-24	\$3,800	St. Christopher's Mission in Navajoland	\$7,600
Aug-24	\$3,700	Dismas Home	\$7,400
Sep-24	\$3,879	Upper Valley Haven	\$7,758
Oct-24	\$4,574	El Hogar	\$9,148
		American Friends of the Episcopal Church in	
Nov -24	\$6,044	Sudan	\$12,088
Dec-24	\$6,350	Afghan Refugee Pilots	<u>\$16,350</u>
		<b>Total</b>	<b>\$128,008</b>

With gratitude to all,  
Jerry Coogan, Elizabeth Lowell, Jim Mathias  
Russ Potter, Becky Rylander, Karen Zurheide

## Other Outreach Projects

Submitted by Becky Rylander

In addition to funds donated for each Last Sunday offering, St. Andrew's engages in a number of other outreach projects, some of which you can read about elsewhere in this report. The following chart outlines all of those other opportunities to give—time or funds or both. If you have questions or are interested in participating in any of them, please contact the people listed on the chart. Most of these projects provide opportunities for hands-on service to those less fortunate in our New Hampshire community and beyond.

This year's CROP Walk raised just over \$7,700 to combat global hunger with St. Andrew's raising more than \$2,400. Twenty-five percent comes back to our KLS Food Pantry.

**Outreach at St. Andrew's – helping others in our parish,  
our community, and the world.**

(01/10/2025)

<b>Project</b>	<b>What it is</b>	<b>What is needed</b>	<b>St. Andrew's Contact</b>
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***In our parish:***

Meals to the Rescue/Meal Train	Provides meals for parishioners who are ill or otherwise in need of help.	Help with cooking and delivering meals.	Sharon Blain
Prayer Shawl Ministry	Provides prayer shawls to parishioners or community members for whom we are praying.	Knitting or crocheting. See <a href="http://www.prayershawlministry.com">www.prayershawlministry.com</a> for sample patterns and come work with the Craft Group.	Craft Group & others
Loafers	Welcome for newcomers.	Deliver fresh bread and information to new members. Answer any questions.	Marilyn Paradis

***In our community:***

Thrift Shop	Sells used clothing and uses the proceeds to benefit St. Andrew's outreach and many local philanthropic organizations.	Clean, gently used clothing appropriate to the season. Volunteer time working in the shop.	Jackie Thompson JoAnn Lyon
KREM (Kearsarge Regional Ecumenical Ministries)	A consortium of local churches providing emergency assistance.	Prayerful support of our representative(s) and donations at ecumenical services and events and other times.	Froncie Quinn Jackie Thompson
Kearsarge-Lake Sunapee Community Food Pantry	Provides food to needy in the area via a food pantry located at the First Baptist Church.	Food, funds, & time. Non-perishable food, especially peanut butter, tuna fish, and other protein items. A collection box is located in the hall. Also \$\$ and volunteer time.	Gail Goddard
Thanksgiving Food Baskets	Collection of \$\$ for grocery gift cards that are distributed to more than 100 families.	\$\$ when requested in November.	Mark Kellett
The Giving Tree	Community Christmas Project for needy families.	Christmas gifts matched to identified wishes following instructions provided in Nov by LSRVNA.	Judy Wheeler
Pocket Crosses	Pocket-size crosses available in the hall in exchange for a free will gift to benefit LSR Food Bank, KREM, and the Friendly Kitchen.	Buy a cross or two and/or lend woodworking help.	Harvey Best
Youth Choir	Choral instruction for 2-5 <sup>th</sup> graders; rehearsals on every Monday after school and on the Friday prior to performing in church on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month.	Help as requested by Nicole.	Nicole Densmore



<b>Project</b>	<b>What it is</b>	<b>What is needed</b>	<b>St. Andrew's Contact</b>
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***In our state and beyond:***

The Friendly Kitchen	Provides dinner bimonthly for 100-120 homeless and needy in Concord.	\$\$ and help preparing and serving food on the fourth Friday of every other month.	JoAnn Hicks
ChiPs –Toys for Children of Incarcerated	A collection of toys for incarcerated parents to give their children for Christmas.	Unwrapped toys collected in October and delivered to Diocesan Convention in early November.	Volunteers
Phillips Brooks Partnership	Outdoor experiences for inner city children.	Volunteers and equipment for hiking, camping, swimming, tubing, sailing and cooking out.	The Rev'd Jay MacLeod Lisa Kelly
The Seamen's Church Institute	The Institute provides spiritual, social services, and professional support to seafarers and river mariners.	Knitted hats and scarves. For patterns and info see website, Becky or Shelly: <a href="http://www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-atsea">www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-atsea</a>	Becky Rylander Shelly Boucher
Annual Crop Walk	Regional, intergenerational walk around Pleasant Lake to raise funds for hunger relief. First Sunday in October.	Walk and/or donate \$\$.	Alison Seward

***In the world:***

Clinique Saint Esprit, Haiti	Funding of a pediatrician's salary for a project to save infant lives.	\$\$ from Last Sunday donations and other	Elizabeth Lowell Becky Rylander
El Hogar	A residential and day school in Honduras that equips very poor kids to succeed.	\$\$, support for a possible service trip, and becoming familiar with their programs.	Becky Rylander
Navajoland	Support work of Episcopal Church in Navajoland, especially at St. Christopher's Mission in Bluff, Utah.	\$\$ and possible participation on service teams. Learning about Navajo traditions and spirituality.	Lisa Kelly, Becky Rylander, Nancy Rollins

## Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

28 January 2024

Noting that attendance exceeded our quorum of 50 (“a great turn-out”) and included many new faces since last year, Jay opened the meeting in the parish hall with words of welcome. He called on the Rev. Lucretia Jevne for the opening prayer.

**Motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to accept the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 2023 as a true and accurate record, written and received.

**Motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to accept the Annual Report of 2023 as written and received.

Jay called on out-going clerk of the vestry Alice Perry to briefly explain proposed by-law changes which parishioners had an opportunity to read prior to the meeting, as well as on a screen during the meeting. Noting that we had last year elected treasurer Mike Quinn to a second term contrary to the (2012) by-laws, a task force including Claire Pace, Mike and Alice with Jay reviewed the by-laws in their entirety in 2023 resulting in several proposed changes so that the bylaws now reflect current practice. After Alice briefly explained what was changed and why in each case, **motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to accept the proposed changes. The changes will be incorporated in a new document, St. Andrew’s By-Laws 2024.

The following slate was presented by Jay, reading from the screen where it was projected for all to see.

Nancy Rollins, Warden for two years

Jennifer Giles, to serve a two-year term on the vestry (to complete Nancy Rollins’s term)

Kathy Mathias, to serve a three-year term as vestry clerk

Susan Feyrer and Gerry Coogan to serve three-year terms on the vestry

Jo Ann Hicks to serve a second two-year term as delegate to Western Convocation

Bill Morgan to serve two-year term as delegate to Western Convocation

Mandy Johnson to serve two years as Alternate to Convocation/Convention

There being no nominations from the floor, **motion** was made and duly seconded, and so voted to approve the entire slate as presented.

Jay thanked outgoing vestry members Karen Zurheide, Morris Edwards, Lin Potter and Alice Perry and outgoing Western Convocation delegate Barbara Smith and alternate Susan Schweizer.

Last week's meeting to ask questions of treasurer Mike Quinn about the 2024 vestry-approved budget had been well attended. With no further questions or discussion, *motion* was made and duly seconded, and so voted to receive the proposed budget for 2024.

With live piano music provided by Will Ogmundson to accompany it, the 2023 Year in Review slide show prepared by Alice Perry in text and pictures was projected on the screen. Jay commented on the shared ministry depicted in the presentation and gave thanks for the congregation's support as he recovered from knee surgery, finding that more difficult than anticipated.

Fran Wilson responded with thanks to Sal for her help every Sunday with the livestream of the 10 AM service. Jay noted that Sal has her own extraordinary ministry, assisting disabled veterans to obtain support due them.

There being no further business, Jay opened the meeting to questions and comments.

*Jackie Thompson* asked when the new season of The Chosen would begin. Jay replied that it is due in cinemas in February but without specific information about free access on our televisions, he expects it to be early to mid-March. He urged those who haven't watched earlier seasons to do so before the new season begins. As we did last year, once the new material is available Kathleen Rusnak will lead discussion each Sunday at 11:30 AM, discussing two episodes each week, March through May, as her schedule permits.

Jay added that as a Lenten offering, Monday meditations will resume on 19 February at 6-6:30 PM.

*Chuck Thompson* asked what had we learned from the experience with Voorhees interns. Jay said we had learned that an 8-week stay might work better as 6 weeks. He is currently looking for hosts of one or two interns for some part of their internship; if no one comes forward he will see if housing (with meals) is available at Colby-Sawyer. Meanwhile he intends to visit Voorhees soon (with one other person) to establish a relationship with the new chaplain there and to interview candidates face-to-face.

*Lucretia Jevne* asked about our relationship with Navajoland following the Rev. Joe Hubbard's departure. We learned that Navajoland will again be a Last Sunday recipient in 2024 and Jay looks forward to future "pilgrimages" there, noting the experience of speaking with an indigenous woman about the almost lost cultural history of cultivating native peach trees.

*Fran Wilson* asked about the proposed preschool. Jay recalled Brian Frenkiewich at last year's annual meeting urging the church to consider offering childcare. Noting that the vestry concluded we didn't have the wherewithal to run such a program, but soon after that conclusion, Liz Niehaus approached us with her vision for a high-quality Montessori preschool. Nancy Rollins is chairing a task force to look at all the challenges. While we don't

want to compromise our own ministries (thrift shop and music using downstairs space) we are excited about the possibility of such an endeavor that is based on a vision of equity, economic diversity. Liz will address both Sunday morning services on 4 February and coffee hours too, giving us an opportunity to meet her while she and the task force work on the details.

*Anne Hall* spoke of her need as verger for help in all areas of ministry: ushers, lectors, acolytes, chalice bearers. Anne was applauded, with Jay noting that she does all we can see, but also lots behind the scenes too.

The Rev. Leslie Smith closed the meeting with a prayer at 9:50 AM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice Perry, Clerk