

# **Annual Report to the Parish**

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Diocese of Arkansas  
Mountain Home**

**Sunday, January 18, 2026**



**A year-end overview of the life and ministry of  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
During the calendar year of 2025**

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## **2026 Annual Meeting Agenda**

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Vestry Election
- III. Budget Report
- IV. Question & Answer of 2025 Reports
- V. PIVOT Presentation
- VI. Closing Prayer

## **A Note on How this Report is Arranged**

Our annual report is laid out according to the elements of parish life that are essential to a healthy church: Worship and Prayer, Life in Community, and Action. When each of these aspects of life together are present, it helps us understand ourselves as the Body of Christ. Our worship and prayer remind us why we are together and strengthens us to do God's work. As God's work permeates our life, it impacts our life in community, in how we care for one another and how we enjoy fellowship with one another. It also impacts how we respond to the needs of our community - the work (or action) we do to help bring about God's Kingdom. When our lives are filled with worship, prayer, caring for one another, fellowship, and service, we identify ourselves as a parish, responsible for ourselves and service. You may notice that some of the lines between the elements of parish life listed above are blurred. We sometimes mix our worship with action, as we do when we combine opportunities for fellowship with action with events such as our Taste of St. Andrew's or Mardi Gras party in which we raise money for a special community programs.

## **A Musing from the Associate Priest**

Anglicans have known that a framework of prayer and community life provides the best context for human flourishing and holistic formation in the local parish. Here at St. Andrew's, we are firmly anchored in the Benedictine, Anglo-Catholic tradition as we respond to the changes that surround us. As we worship, learn and live together in our parish community, I personally give thanks for the outstanding work and dedication of our members, in spite of the limitations we face, in presenting and preserving the historic faith of the one Holy catholic and apostolic church in North Arkansas.

God Bless Y'all,  
Reverend Dr. Bob Williams

## **Senior Warden's Report**

It is important to remember what took place in 2025. The reports will inform or remind us of the past year and describe how we shared our time, treasures, and talents. We fed hundreds of individuals in our community, we welcomed several new members, we collaborated with other congregations for an amazing Christmas concert, and so much more!

As we begin 2026, may we be kind and positive to each other. We come to St. Andrew's seeking love and acceptance. I look forward to a year full of growth and fellowship.

Sue Geery  
Senior Warden

## **Junior Warden Report**

We continue to be "Locked Down for Worship" to better ensure the safety of the church attendees every Sunday. Security cameras continue to be utilized and upgraded as needed. Please refer to the Building & Grounds report for additional information.

Scott Kliment  
Junior Warden

## **Building & Grounds Committee Report**

The Building and Grounds Committee has had a quiet year.

- The doors in Keller Hall to the courtyard were replaced and a chair rail added in the church office.
- Washable, reusable air filters were added to the HVAC system to save money and reduce trash waste.
- A new faucet was added to the small sink in the kitchen.
- The tile floors in Keller Hall and surrounding area that were refinished last year have held up well and will probably just need to be stripped once a year and buffed once or twice between stripping and rewaxing.
- There were a few minor repairs outside - reattaching a piece of siding and a gutter that were blown off during a storm.
- The courtyard continues to be a work in progress. The grass is slowly improving as the overgrown herbs are removed.

- A new project this year was having a float in the Mountain Home Christmas parade. It was a successful first effort and something we hope will become an annual project.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kathy Johnson

### **Treasurer's Report**

The financials for the year ending 2025 are positive due to the faithful service of Father Bob. Without him, it would be a largely different situation. Saint Andrew's has been saving those monies that would be normally paid to a priest, which I would call a contingency fund for the sole purpose of hiring a full or part time priest. Saint Andrews was \$2,300.00 over 2025 pledges, and I anticipate 2026 to be the same as the amount pledged was slightly higher than 2025. The vestry and I had a Budget workshop on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of December to discuss the budget for 2026. As we all know items and services are not getting any cheaper, insurance, utilities, service contracts, internet and building maintenance, I took the opportunity to add roughly 10% to these line-item numbers from last year. The decision was made to not budget for a full or part time priest, at this time, we did crunch the numbers for a full time and a part time priest. However, the vestry and I decided to budget for a supply priest for 52 weeks. That number is substantially lower than a full-time priest and I don't anticipate using a supply priest for most of the year. During 2025, Saint Andrews also voted to hire a Parish Administrator, which in turn has increased our budget for Lay Salaries and Benefits. Saint Andrews also helped finance sending two youth to Camp Mitchell for a summer camp and a fall retreat thanks to the help of donations from the congregation and a percentage of funds raised at Mardi Gras. Saint Andrews also received recognition from the Episcopal Relief Fund for support for natural disasters. I do expect to have an excess of funds by the end of 2026.

If there are any issues that are of concern, please feel free to contact me at 479-883-7009.

Kind regards,  
Brian Harris

## **2026 Approved Budget**

| <b>Accounts</b>                           | <b>2025<br/>Budget</b> | <b>2026<br/>Budget</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Contributions</b>                      |                        |                        |
| 1751.00 - Plate Offerings                 | 4,000                  | 4,500                  |
| <i>Total Pledged</i>                      | 134,000                | 134,000                |
|                                           |                        |                        |
| 1753.00 - Special Offerings               | 1,000                  | 1,000                  |
| 1754.00 - Prior Year Pledge               | 1,000                  | 600                    |
| <b>Miscellaneous Income</b>               |                        |                        |
| 1756.00 - Unrestricted Gifts              | 1,000                  | 1,000                  |
| <i><b>Total Contributions</b></i>         | <i><b>141,000</b></i>  | <i><b>141,100</b></i>  |
|                                           |                        |                        |
| <b>Non-Operating Revenues</b>             |                        |                        |
| 1759.00 - Designated Offerings            | 25,000                 | 19,000                 |
| 1759.01 - Capital Campaign Revenue        | 500                    | 0                      |
| <i><b>Total Non-Operating Revenue</b></i> | <i><b>25,500</b></i>   | <i><b>19,000</b></i>   |
| <b>Total Revenues</b>                     | <i><b>166,500</b></i>  | <i><b>160,100</b></i>  |

|                                                                      |                      |                      |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Expenses</b>                                                      |                      |                      |
| 1864.00 - Commitment to Diocese (2026-10.50% of total contributions) | 15,789               | 14,968               |
| 1866.03 - Communications                                             | 2,500                | 2,500                |
| 1866.04 - Children & Youth Activities                                |                      | 1,500                |
| 1866.05 – Lectionary Inserts                                         | 0                    | 0                    |
| 1866.06 - Music & Choir                                              | 300                  | 300                  |
| 1866.08 - Altar Supplies                                             | 800                  | 800                  |
| 1866.10 - Diocesan Convention Del. Exp.                              |                      | 1,000                |
| 1866.09 – Liturgical expense                                         | 500                  | 500                  |
| 1866.12 - Pastoral Care (St. Martha's Guild)                         | 200                  | 200                  |
| 1866.16 - Events                                                     |                      | 3,000                |
| <i><b>Total Program Expenses</b></i>                                 | <i><b>20,189</b></i> | <i><b>24,768</b></i> |

|                                                                                                                                                                   |               |               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Clergy*</b>                                                                                                                                                    |               |               |
| 1867.00 - Compensation                                                                                                                                            | 43,242        | 64,100        |
| 1867.01 - Cash Housing & Utilities                                                                                                                                | 16,000        | TBD           |
| 1867.02 - SECA Reimbursement 7.65%                                                                                                                                | 4,808         | 4,904         |
| 1867.03 - Pension (18%)                                                                                                                                           | 11,313        | 11,538        |
| 1867.04 - Health Coverage (church portion)                                                                                                                        | 9,850         | 10,600        |
| 1867.06 - Professional Expense                                                                                                                                    | 2,000         | 2,000         |
| 1867.07 - Travel/Business Expense Reimbursement                                                                                                                   | 2,000         | 2,000         |
| 1867.08 - Dental                                                                                                                                                  | 606           | 606           |
| 1867.09 - Supply Clergy                                                                                                                                           | 1,000         | 1,000         |
| 1867.10 - Designated for Health Insurance (employee portion)                                                                                                      |               |               |
| <b>Total Clergy</b>                                                                                                                                               | <b>91,129</b> | <b>96,748</b> |
| <i>*The 2026 compensation package reflects a part-time position; however, a full-time package may be available due to contingency funds set aside for clergy.</i> |               |               |
| <b>Lay Salaries/Benefits</b>                                                                                                                                      |               |               |
| 1868.00 - Secretary                                                                                                                                               | 12,000        | 41,900        |
| 1868.01 - Organist                                                                                                                                                | 4,500         | 6,000         |
| 1868.03 - Custodian                                                                                                                                               | 5,800         | 6,500         |
| 1868.04 - Tax Expense - employer                                                                                                                                  | 900           | 1,000         |
| 1868.05 – Health Coverage (church portion)                                                                                                                        | 0             | 10,600        |
| 1868.07 - Pension/Admin (9% base pay)                                                                                                                             |               |               |
| <b>Total Lay Salaries/Benefits</b>                                                                                                                                | <b>23,200</b> | <b>66,000</b> |

|                                          |       |       |
|------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
| <b>Other Administrative Expenses</b>     |       |       |
| 1866.13 - Kitchen/Hospitality            | 100   | 1,000 |
| 1869.00 - Worker's Comp. Ins.            | 435   | 450   |
| 1869.01 - Office Supplies & Expenses     | 2,300 | 2,300 |
| 1869.02 - Postage                        | 250   | 250   |
| 1869.03 - Telephone & Fax Expense        | 100   | 100   |
| 1869.04 - Computer Software/Tech Support | 1,260 | 1,500 |
| 1869.05 - Leasing - Office Equipment     | 6,000 | 4,000 |

|                                                   |                        |                        |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1869.06 – Internet & Cable Services               | 1,800                  | 2,000                  |
| 1869.07 Payroll Services                          | 1,370                  | 1,500                  |
| <b><i>Total Other Administrative Expenses</i></b> | <b><i>13,615</i></b>   | <b><i>13,100</i></b>   |
|                                                   |                        |                        |
| <b>Property Expense</b>                           |                        |                        |
| 1870.01 - Casualty & Liability Insurance          | 6,500                  | 10,000                 |
| 1870.03 - Water                                   | 1,000                  | 1,000                  |
| 1870.04 - Gas                                     | 2,100                  | 2,500                  |
| 1870.05 - Electricity                             | 5,000                  | 6,500                  |
| 1870.06 - Trash                                   | 400                    | 500                    |
| 1870.07 - Custodial & Lawn Supplies               | 1,000                  | 500                    |
| 1870.08 - Maintenance & Building Repair           | 7,000                  | 8,000                  |
| 1870.09 - Service Contracts                       | 1,100                  | 1,100                  |
| 1870.12 - Security System                         | 300                    | 500                    |
| <b><i>Total Property Expense</i></b>              | <b><i>24,400</i></b>   | <b><i>30,600</i></b>   |
|                                                   |                        |                        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                             | <b><i>172,533</i></b>  | <b><i>231,216</i></b>  |
| <b>Net Total</b>                                  | <b><i>(31,533)</i></b> | <b><i>(71,116)</i></b> |

# *Worship & Prayer*

## St. Andrew's Choir

2025 brought us the good fortune of adding Dr. Hart as our principal musician. Not only has he kept our ears busy with a diverse range of music, but he has brought a human warmth to our work and I know has been very easy for any of you to speak with and share ideas. This has lifted a burden from my 83 year old volunteer self and I am grateful.

You must have noticed the choir is suffering in numbers. Not one of us is under 70. Diminished [physical stamina, caregiving requirements, and other forces make serving in this ministry difficult]. If you would try us out in a single season...even...of the church year. such as Lent, or the Sundays from Easter to Pentecost, that would be wonderful. No auditions happen and great musical skills aren't required. We do enjoy being together.

The bulletin front reminds us that part of our vision is accomplishing transformative liturgy and lifelong learning. I think we're trying, in our modest ways, to encourage that. You'll notice that we do use the LEVAS hymnbook on occasion, and much growth, particularly in texts, has happened since the 1982 hymnal and earlier BCP revisions, went to press. My membership in the Hymn Society is very helpful in my study of what is going on elsewhere, and not just in Anglicanism. The last 25 years I've thoroughly enjoyed studying new texts and tunes. Remember, we really try to align the musical offerings with the lectionary, and doing that shows, across the year, where the gaps are.

I offer thanks to the faithful few who keep us going and their generous volunteering. I'm always available to talk...and I'm probably a better listener than speechifier, Try me. I know that our church community, as a whole, is not complacent. And I know that other denominations, whatever the church size, are struggling, too. That's why several United Methodists joined us to help with the message of All Saints and with the musical afternoon in December, why some of us help the Symphony chorus serve the community, and why our corporate goal is humble, loving service.

I salute all of you for your spirit. On we go! Peace! BILL WEEKS

## Altar Flowers

The members of St. Andrew's continue to generously support our flower program by remembering to fill out the flower form so our Office Administrator has the information on whether flowers are given in memory, in honor, or in thanksgiving for the bulletin, attaching their check for \$38.00, and turning both items into the office two weeks prior to the date they have signed up for.

One change is being made this year. If the person donating flowers wants special "out of season" flowers, roses, or a larger arrangement than the normal \$38.00 price, we would appreciate that such requests be discussed with Annette's Florist and the cost paid directly to the florist. Next, please let Gail Alter or Cheryl Nichols know so we can inform the treasurer and, therefore, he will not expect a check for flowers that week.

If you have any questions about donating flowers, please contact Gail Alter by email at [galter0908@mail.com](mailto:galter0908@mail.com) or phone/text at 1-870-405-1647. Thank you for your support of St. Andrew's Flower Program.

Gail Alter

### **Altar Guild**

A very special “Thank You” to the members of the Altar Guild doing such a spectacular job in 2025. Preparing the altar for services and special occasions were: Joyce Polacek, Sue Geery, Sharon Ward, and Kathy McClellan. We welcome anyone interested in learning more about this “behind-the-scenes” ministry of caring for the altar, vestments, vessels, and linens.

Kathy McClellan

### **Welcome Ministry**

The Welcome Ministry has a simple but very important job – send a note to visitors who sign the guest book, thanking them for worshipping with us and inviting them to return. We are thankful to Vickie Harris and Alyse Wade for taking on this important ministry. Approximately 22 cards were mailed to visitors in 2025. If you would like to help with this ministry, please contact Vickie Harris or call the church office.

Cheryl Nichols

### **Labyrinth**

The Labyrinth is open for prayer and meditation on the second Friday of each month from 10:30 AM until Noon. The Labyrinth provides an opportunity to disconnect from the busyness of our world and reconnect with the Infinite. We ask nothing of participants other than respecting the quiet and meditative atmosphere created for you.

This year the Daughters of the King have added another layer to this opportunity. Participants may come to the Narthex at 10 AM to pray and meditate and sing a little before coming down the hall to walk the labyrinth. It’s a lovely way to quiet the mind and free the spirit.

The labyrinth is an ancient practice which offers a chance to quiet the mind, leaving it open to inspiration and peace. There is no right or wrong way to walk the path, and there are no wrong turns. Like life itself, there is only one way to go at any one moment, trusting in God to lead your feet in right pathways. If you have any questions, please contact April Baily at [abaily4994@usa.net](mailto:abaily4994@usa.net) or at 870-421-5395.

April Baily

# *Study and Learning*

## **Adult Forum**

This past year we discussed several books, including one by Bishop Shelby Spong, characterized by Father Bob as ‘my favorite heretic’. We are starting a guided discussion about the Nicene Creed, since 2025 was the 1700th anniversary of this founding document. Our discussions are often free-ranging, but always thoughtful. We start about 15 minutes after the service ends each Sunday and are always done no later than 11:30 AM. Y’all are welcome to join us. And if you have suggestions for discussion topics or books, please either email me ([abaily4994@usa.net](mailto:abaily4994@usa.net)) or call the office (870-425-3560) and let us know.

April Baily

## **Education for Ministry (EfM)**

EfM is a four-year distance learning course offered by the University of the South at Sewanee, TN. The curriculum consists of reading assignments done on one’s own, with the first-year students reading the Old Testament, second year the New Testament, third year church history, and fourth year theology. Seminars are held weekly at a time agreed upon by the group, and the reading assignments are discussed, and different subjects used for theological reflections. The four-year curriculum must be taken in sequence, but a participant can skip a year or more as needed.

We have just completed our year which ran from last January (2025) til December 2025. We will not restart until September 2026 for the next session. Registration for the class beginning in September 2026 will begin in June.

Many members of the congregation are EfM graduates. Almost universally you’ll find that they valued the course for what it taught them, and for how it engaged their hearts and minds in new ways. If you have questions, please contact mentors April Baily at [abaily4994@usa.net](mailto:abaily4994@usa.net) or at 870-421-5395 or Kim Wood at [kimberlyewood@gmail.com](mailto:kimberlyewood@gmail.com) or at 210-861-8345.

April Baily

## **Daughters of the King (DoK)**

Daughters of the King (DoK) is an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church and nationally includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA) and Roman Catholic churches. Our chapter is The Alpha Chapter, the first DOK chapter when DOK was re-established in Arkansas by Wally Kimmel years ago.

**Becoming a member** – A discernment process follows national DOK guidelines, incorporating a 3-month period of prayer, study and group reflection. In 2025 two new Daughters were installed, Magda Rodrigues and Breita Church. Current Officers are President: Cheryl Nichols, Vice President, Dedra Leaf, Secretary and Treasurer, April Baily. Jane Darr is immediate Past President. Reaffirming the promises made at Baptism, Daughters commit to prayer, service and evangelism.

**Prayer** – Yearly, each daughter introduces herself to an assigned number of church members and worshippers. Daughters pray for members daily and invite them to share any special prayers.

**Evangelism -**

- Ongoing monthly invitation to the community and members to experience the Labyrinth, and now an additional option for a quiet time of contemplation is invited each month.
- Lenten invitation in 2025 to practice gratitude using the United Thank Offering practice of daily giving has now been expanded to several other seasons of the church and is available as a practice for all throughout the year.
- In Lent 2025, again invited the community and members to observe the Stations of the Cross each Friday at Noon.

**Service -**

- Support the work of Gamma House, a transitional facility for women & children
- Pantry packets to meet needs of those that cannot be served on Wednesday Pantry Day.
- Casserole ministry to serve individuals and families in need of a hot meal during an illness or death in the family.
- United Thank Offering (UTO) collections to support the UTO mission
- Write original articles for church newsletter.
- Book study – Julian of Norwich
- Occasional after meeting activities – art, rosary making

**Special events in 2025 hosted by Alpha Chapter -**

**March 15, 2025** - Seeking Sacred Stories – Stories of women lost and found in the Old Testament was the subject this half-day retreat offered to the entire community. Twenty plus women attended and enjoyed the experience which included light lunch.

**August 24, 2025** – “Come and See” Tea - an invitation to consider beginning a discernment opportunity that may lead to becoming a Daughter of the King was held.

Jane Darr and Cheryl Nichols

### **Catechesis of the Good Shepherd**

Our faithful group that meets regularly includes Kai, Atticus, Krizia and me. If we have younger children attending, I work with them and Krizia works with the boys. I love hearing some Spanish coming from that room next door as Krizia enjoys teaching simple verses or names of the books of the Bible in Spanish. We are blessed in so many ways!

Deanna VanEps

# *Life in Community*

## **Pub Theology**

We continue to meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. In 2025 we met at Little B's Restaurant, Ole Mill, and Live Edge. We mostly fellowship rather than theologize, but we have a lovely time together. All are welcome to join us!

Sue Geery

## **The Arts at St. Andrew's**

The Arts at St. Andrew's is a series of presentations featuring music, or visual arts, or discussions of history, or travelogues, or something like quilt shows. We had two concerts this year, courtesy of our talented organist, Dr. Skye Hart; the first a recital featuring him, and then in December the Christmas concert which included colleagues of his from Lyon College, local musicians from other churches, and our very own Beci and Kent Coffey with their inimitable brand of music. Both events were well-received in the wider community. This kind of event helps us extend a welcome to everyone.

April Baily

# *Action*

## **St. Martha's Guild**

When our congregation experiences the loss of one of our own, the physical practice of preparing food and peaceful spaces to gather together is a blessing to all. It's one of many ways we show our love, appreciation, and respect. There were no funeral receptions at St. Andrew's in 2025.

The Guild has also benefitted from the DoK's commitment to a "casserole ministry" by preparing food for our parishioners who are homebound due to illness, recovery from surgery, or loss of any kind. The blessing of this wonderful congregation is that we care for one another in so many ways.

Cheryl Nichols

## **The Search Team**

The Search Committee, chaired by Bonnie Smith, consists of Deanna VanEps, Bill Weeks, Magda Rodriguez, and Jane Darr. Our purpose is to receive and interview candidates sent by the diocese to fill a full or part-time rector position. We have been assured by our new liaison with the diocese, Melanie Lemberg, that we are a high priority with Bishop Harman. We hope to receive a candidate to interview soon. Our search is ongoing!

Bonnie Smith

# **PIVOT**

## **2025 Pivot Working Group Report**

St Andrews Pivot Representatives. Pivot Participants Bonnie Smith, Linda Hipes and Kim Wood attended the Diocesan-sponsored, Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF)-mentored “Pivot” program, along with a few dozen other small churches across Arkansas.

Background. The ECF is the mission and funding arm of the Episcopal church over the last few decades. The seminaries and the national church and associated funders (Lilly Endowment, John Templeton Foundation, Center for Open Science, Numerous Universities, etc) combine to develop church survival strategies and consulting, formation materials and new approaches, liturgical innovation, technological insertion to improve reach, and so much more.

The Pivot Process. One such ECF church survival consultation effort is “Pivot.” Our then-new (2023) bishop of Arkansas, John Harmon, contracted with ECF’s Pivot project to bring it to Arkansas’ many small churches, in the hope that they would use the material and consulting to find ways to survive. ECF mentors presented an Abundance mindset rather than a Scarcity mindset so that church participants didn’t automatically shut off ideas. It is the assumption of Pivot (hence the name Pivot) that by turning from a traditionally inward focus to a new focus on the surrounding community that Episcopal churches can live into their Baptismal covenants by bringing our “way” to the community. As part of the mentoring process, we were provided a database of demographic data pertaining to our “community.” Bonnie and I drew a circle around the areas from which our furthest congregants drove in and this is where we derived the community statistics from which we built our focus areas.

St Andrews Begins the Process. Our working group began in July 2025 with ten energetic participants and met once a month up until the November vestry meeting. We started with the conscious effort to make clear our own individual values and then to look at what were the values of the group. We used the ECF’s organizing strategy to identify some Focus Areas that we felt the most passionate about. We then brainstormed ideas for community actions underneath each Focus Area. There were a lot of ideas generated, and some people thought “we can’t do all of this!” The answer is of course not. Brainstorming helps you see what ideas you are most passionate about. The many ideas generated helped us consider what we perhaps can and cannot do. They help you clarify what is most important. So based on those very apparent values, which reflected an assessment of our times and relevance to our community’s needs (the data) we began to prioritize them. That was not as hard as you might expect because we had thought it all through together.

Once we identified the five Focus Areas that met at the intersection of our values and our community’s needs, we prioritized them. The Focus Areas are:

Mission Focus #1: Justice, Inclusivity & Creation Care

Mission Focus #2: Engaging Youth & Young Adults

Mission Focus #3: Liturgical Innovation & Spiritual Growth (for purposes of offering to community, not just ourselves)

Mission Focus #4: Outreach, Hospitality & Welcoming

Mission Focus #5: Communication, Branding & Digital Ministry

After we identified these Focus Areas, we put them in priority order. We left all the brainstormed ideas intact underneath to keep them intact and to help us with words to generate a new Mission and Vision Statement. We used the ECF consulting material to clarify what was a mission statement actually and

what was a vision statement. They do vary if you do much internet research. But we followed the ECF consulting materials for the most part.

Mission Statement is what is our brand. What is it that we promise and deliver as a matter of high trust.

Vision Statement is where do you see yourself going in the future. The future is defined as generally achievable from three to five years out.

We drafted up our clunky attempts to capture everyone's interpretation of the values evident in our Focus Areas. We ran it through Chat GPT which cleaned it up a bit! Tweaked it one more time and sent to the vestry for a vote. Fortunately, after all that work, and a few complaints such as "it's sort of clunky" – they went with it.

Our First Intentionally Externally Focused Event: The Robert Arnold Event. At the same time, much to some folks' annoyance, we had a group text running so that we could coordinate meetings and share ideas as we thought of them, instead of isolating ideation and learning at our monthly meetings. Social justice and writers and speakers across social media captured a lot of our Pivot group's interest. One super popular internet speaker with whom we all were passionately interested in was from Arkansas, Robert Arnold. Robert drafts poetry about social injustice and hypocrisy and weaves in religion largely to highlight hypocrisy. Pivot group member Holly LaFevers reached out to him to see if he would be willing to speak in Mountain Home and to our huge surprise, he said he would. When she asked what he would charge, he said nothing because he believed in our mission and in Arkansas. He had just published a good titled "Defiance Til Death" and he would make profits from that as it is. Because Robert is nationally famous and we expected more people than St Andrew's could host, one parishioner generously secured the ASU McClure Auditorium for the 28 October 2025 event. Our group sold tickets, made a gift basket and our parish administrator made flyers we disseminated. The group purchased news venue publication with the Baxter Bulletin, the West Plains Quill and the Harrison Daily Times, as well as Mtn Home Observer, the Arkansas Times and a spot on KTLO's "Talk of the Town." We published the event on our Facebook page as well.

The event drew more than 150 people and generated a lot of excitement and attention. We had a follow-on VIP event hosted at "The Rabbit Hole" and Kent & Beci Coffey played traditional Ozark music to support it. Robert donated the ticket proceeds we had offered him to the Food Pantry, as did Kent & Beci Coffey. So the food pantry profited around \$500+ dollars in support of its mission. Most ticket purchasers told Cheryl Nichols, parish administrator, that they thought the idea of a "Speaker Series" was appealing. So we reached out to internet (Substack) speaker #2, Beau Stringer of Resurrection United Methodist in Kansas City who has also agreed to come to Mtn Home on March 7, 2026 to present "Becoming Mainline." The Pivot group members supported the whole Robert Arnold event planning and execution and the excitement at generating so much positive attention and branding was at a new high. Father Bob attended and participated, however only Roehl Johnson and Bonnie Smith attended from the vestry.

The November 2025 Vestry Presentation. The last step of the main working group effort was to present the process the Pivot group used to come to its conclusions and proposals and to present initial Focus Area financial requests to the Vestry. The November vestry meeting was supported by Linda Hipes, April Baily, Nell Engeler, and Kim Wood. A funding line was added.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kim Wood

# *Mission and Outreach*

**Taste of St. Andrews** – The “Taste of St Andrew’s” was not celebrated in 2025. We hope to host this fun event in October 2026.

**Mardi Gras** – The 2025 Mardi Gras Fundraiser was a vibrant celebration of community, generosity, and purpose. Through the collective efforts of our supporters, sponsors, volunteers, and Church, the event successfully raised approximately \$4,000. These funds directly supported St. Andrew’s Food Pantry and the children that wish to attend Camp Mitchell.

This annual event continues to be one of our most anticipated and impactful fundraisers, blending festive tradition with meaningful philanthropy. We have continued to sell out tickets every year. This event would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers and partners. We extend heartfelt thanks to all of you! Your commitment exemplifies the power of community working together for a common cause.

Building on last year’s success, we are already planning for **Mardi Gras: Unmasking The Magic, February 17, 2026. Tickets go on sale SOON!!!!**

Our goals include:

- Expanding attendance and community outreach
- Increasing fundraising impact
- Introducing new engagement opportunities for supporters- This is going to be a change and a surprise for all of you!

We look forward to continuing this cherished tradition and making an even greater difference together. If you would like to volunteer, please feel free to text, call or email [frannie@frannielandryins.com](mailto:frannie@frannielandryins.com) or (870)706-0367.

Frannie Landry

**Food Pantry** – The workers of St. Andrew's Food Pantry found 2025 very exciting, but often challenging. Diana Hamby, Tara Nance, and Margot Serdahl joined our hard-working staff of volunteers. Kim Wood will be with us starting the new year. The funds received from last year's Madri Gras were extremely appreciated as the Pantry was able to provide fifteen families with turkeys and holiday boxes at Thanksgiving.

Thanks to the Vestry, the Pantry was able to replace our two old freezers with a new large, self-defrosting freezer in which we keep chicken, turkeys at Thanksgiving, and other beef products. Our senior warden Sue Geery with the help of her family bought several hundred pounds of chicken back from Sam's Club in Springfield that provided our clients with an excellent source of high-quality protein for many months. In addition, Diana Hamby was able to donate many large boxes of food staples, cleaning supplies, and baby items that were not used from the Church of Christ Disaster Relief Effort after the tornado that hit her area. Every month our Ingathering supplies items needed.

Our challenging times came in the fall when SNAP (Supplement Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits were suspended. Our number of clients needing assistance almost doubled. Fortunately, many generous monetary donations were received from our church family, Pivot's Robert Arnold Presentation, Elk's Ladies, and even people who do not attend St. Andrew's. Two other outreach programs were started to meet the growing needs--Sue Geery and Cheryl Nichols with their crew provided box lunches two Mondays and Jeanne Patrick with another group of helpers started providing delicious home-made soups each Wednesday for the Pantry. The Soup Ministry will continue through the winter.

Once again the realtors of Baxter County provided 76 cartons plus the Food Bank distributed another 30 cartons of free food to the Pantry in November.

As of the end of November, 326 households consisting of 753 individuals have been helped thanks to the generosity of St. Andrew's and others.

Gail Alter

**Little Free Library** – Our little library continues to thrive. We can always use new or used children's books. To all of you secret donors who leave children's books in the office for our library, thank you. I would love to know who you are and where you found those wonderful books you have donated. Also do not forget our adult library located inside the building by the parish hall which is brimming with great books. Feel free to take any of them to read.

Deanna VanEps

**The Giving Tree** - The Giving Tree is located in the Narthex. It is our way of supporting some of the needs in our community. We sponsor a school, community organization or group that are in need, such as the homeschool group, our Little Free Library, Gamma House, and many other organizations. Dedra Leaf is currently managing The Giving Tree. If you are aware of a need in the community and would like to have it displayed on The Giving Tree, please let Dedra Leaf or Cheryl Nichols know.

Kathy McClellan

### *Our Mission*

*We are a vibrant, inclusive and welcoming community sharing our gifts and the radical love of Jesus.*

### *Our Vision*

*Our vision is to live into Christ's teachings through compassionate service, transformative liturgy, and lifelong learning. Through intentional outreach and inclusive hospitality, we strive to embody God's love-driven possibilities for all who seek community on their spiritual journey. We inspire faith and actively pursue justice and care for creation within our church, our neighborhoods, and in our Ozark region.*

Notes:

## THE EPIPHANY PROCLAMATION for the Year of our Lord Jesus Christ 2026



Dear friends in Christ, the glory of the Lord has shone upon us, and shall ever be manifest among us, until the day of his return. Through the rhythms of times and seasons let us celebrate the mysteries of salvation.

Let us recall the year's culmination, the Paschal Triduum of the Lord: his last supper, his crucifixion, his burial, and his rising celebrated between the evening of the **2<sup>nd</sup> day of April** and the evening of the **4<sup>th</sup> day of April**.

Each Easter – as on each Sunday – the Holy Church makes present the great and saving deed by which Christ has forever conquered sin and death. From Easter are reckoned all the days we keep holy.

Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent, will occur on the **18<sup>th</sup> day of February**.

The Ascension of the Lord will be commemorated on the **14<sup>th</sup> day of May**.

Pentecost, the joyful conclusion of the season of Easter, will be celebrated on the **24<sup>th</sup> day of May**.

And, this year the First Sunday of Advent will be on the **29<sup>th</sup> day of November**.

Likewise the pilgrim Church proclaims the Passover of Christ in the feasts of the holy Mother of God, in the feasts of the Apostles and Saints, and in the commemoration of the faithful departed.

To Jesus Christ, who was, who is, and who is to come, Lord of time and history, be endless praise, for ever and ever. Amen.