

St. Andrew's Annual Report

For the Glory of Jesus Christ!

"My grace is sufficient for you; my power is made perfect in weakness." 2 Corinthians 12:9

Dear Church,

Remember with me, back to early March of last year. We had a terrible windstorm rip through Woodford County, knocking out the power of hundreds of homes and businesses, including our church. It just so happened to be the weekend that our bishop was visiting with us, for Rev. Todd's ordination and for confirmations. So, on one of the biggest weekends of the year for us ... we had no electricity. For three days we had no power, but God's power was enough for us. We ended up calling upon the congregation to bring candles, candle holders, and flashlights, as many as could be spared, and the Saturday evening ordination service done by candlelight ended up being one of the most beautiful services I have ever been a part of.

This event, both in the way our congregation handled it and how the Lord worked through it, feels to me emblematic of most of 2023. For the entire year, our building has been handicapped, and some of our key programs deeply affected by the lack of usable space. We've had to change or cancel certain events because of this, and the staff have had to make uncomfortable adjustments to their workspace.

But our Lord has not been hindered by any of this. Glory be to Him, He has not been waiting for us to get our building put back together in order to carry on with the wonderful work He is doing in our midst. God, whose strength is made perfect in our weakness, who brings beautiful things out of chaos, and brings to life that which was dead – He has never for one moment abandoned us or failed to show us how sufficient His grace truly is. We give Him all praise and thanks for this. And I'm proud of how our congregation has dealt with all these hindrances. Even amidst many inconveniences, this is a church that knows how to keep the main thing the main thing, and to trust in the Lord for all the rest.

So against all odds, and against some appearances, it has been a great year for St. Andrew's, and we have been growing into our vision **to glorify Jesus Christ as a community of disciples on mission**. As a community, we have glorified the Lord by welcoming eight new covenant members last February! We all came together around the ordination of Todd Renner to the priesthood, affirming and supporting him in this calling. That same weekend saw four of our

members confirmed by the bishop in their faith. A new home group was initiated, aiming to grow in the Lord through fellowship, while our many other home groups and Bible study fellowships thrived. We continued our Bread Breakers program, with multiple rounds of gathering around a table to share in a meal together. This is a wonderful community full of people who know how to love one another as Christ loves us.

We grew in our discipleship this year, growing into deeper maturity as we follow Jesus together. We tried a new experiment with doing a parish book study during Lent, and many of us grew through thoughtful discussions in small groups. In the summer, we had a wonderful time studying and growing in the Holy Spirit at our Wednesday evening class, and many people took the opportunity to receive prayer for more of the Spirit at the conclusion of that course. In the fall, Rev. Todd taught a class on angels that was deeply edifying. We preached sermon series this year going through Romans and talking about money, both of which affirmed and stretched our faith. God is doing a good work in forming us and maturing us as disciples.

And He is sending us out on mission into the world and our community. This summer we sent out two mission teams – our youth who went to Big Creek Missions in Appalachia, and a small team that went to visit the Bunyoro-Kitara Diocese in Uganda. We continue to provide support and prayer to a number of missionaries throughout the world, and we were blessed this year by a visit from the Harkonens, to hear a report about their mission. Locally, our aim was to be more present and active in the community of Versailles/Woodford County. We had a booth at the Twilight Festival in the fall and got to go caroling downtown in December – not only were these great events for helping people know about our church, they were also great fun!

All of this is not for our sakes. It is not even for the world's sake. It is for the glory of Jesus Christ. He is building His church, in deeper ways than the construction around us would indicate! We are a people set apart for Him and for His glory, and it is our great joy to celebrate His work and give thanks to Him in all circumstances, for He is sufficient for all that we need, now and always.

In service to the Lord Jesus and to you, Rev. Ben



Rev. Todd Renner was ordained to the priesthood in March, beautifully surrounded by candles and flashlights.

TO GLORIFY JESUS CHRIST ...

'Worship the Lord with gladness'

Altar Guild

Altar Guild members set up the linens, dishes, and candles for our Sunday Holy Communion and other special services, like Ash Wednesday and Christmas or even a wedding. We would love to welcome new members in 2024 – men as well as women! – Katey Meares (859-619-5613/kateymeares@prodigy.net)

Audio/Video Technical Team

Our faithful A/V team quietly served every week in 2023! This group of people, who can be found congregating in the back of the room, make it possible for us to hear and see as we worship together. Would you like to join them? We are always looking for willing hands and hearts! Here are the positions (we will train you!):

- Running the sound board for live worship
- Recording/streaming audio
- Recording/streaming video/camera work
- Changing slides of projected text and images for worship

– Kerry Dorrell (859-536-8055/kerrydorrell@gmail.com)

Chancel Serving Teams

I would like to thank everyone who served as a Crucifer, Acolyte or Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM) this past year, for your dedication to being at church and keeping your commitment to God. For all who are interested in serving our Lord and Savior on the Chancel, you are more than welcome and training will be made available to you. Please feel free to contact me. – Jewell Brandenburg (859-312-1642)

First Sunday Prayer and Praise

Last year, we gathered each first Sunday of the month for extended worship and special, specific prayer. It has been a fulfilling time, with the youth group joining a core of adults who faithfully attend. In 2024, we are continuing to meet at 7 p.m. in the sanctuary. Feel free to join us occasionally or regularly. Worship and prayer are the essential works of the people of God. See your service sheet for more information – Kerry Dorrell (859-536-8055/kerrydorrell@gmail.com)

Flower Team

Every Sunday our Flower Team provides arrangements to enhance our Lord's beautiful cross. We are so blessed to have a talented group of ladies who enjoy creating these lovely bouquets. They are not only gifted in the art of flower arranging they are also very generous ... never asking to be reimbursed. If their flowers are meaningful

to you, please let them know. Martha Sweet's big flower pot at the side entrance is always a happy welcome! Thanks to all the ladies for blessing us with their gifts. – Louise Dearborn (859-583-2600/louise.dearborn@gmail.com)

Greeters

This ministry is vital to a welcoming church. Greeters are often the first person that members, new comers and visitors meet. They greet and advise people of the location of the nursery, restrooms, fellowship hall, and sanctuary, all while extending a warm welcome. We'd love for you to join our team! – Paul Afdahl (859-753-3149 / afdahlvikings1@windstream.net)



Our Usher Team ready to give a hand. L to R : Mark Upton, Michael Underwood, Jim Rogan, Dan Primm, Dyer Rodes, Bill Hallman, Dick Kane, Fielding Walker
Missing: Fred Baumann, Len Greathouse, Tom Thornbury

Lay Readers

Our lay readers continue to faithfully read God's Word. Through illness and winter storm damage we still have faith in God's Word to get us through whatever comes our way. Our readers know the importance of practicing our readings so that they will clearly read God's Word to the congregation to bring us closer to Him. We welcome all to join our team! – Sherry Afdahl (859-753-3139/afdahlvikings1@windstream.net)

Music

Congregational singing is a primary aspect of our life together here at St. Andrew's. In 2023, we sang timeless hymns, chanted psalms, were moved by special music selections, and rejoiced with contemporary expressions of praise. It is wonderful and awesome to hear the voices raised in song. This past year, we also inaugurated a new youth/young adult praise team. If you struggle to enjoy this diversity of worship, I (Kerry) would love to talk with you. If you love to make music, we welcome you to join our choir/ensemble and/or sing or play on a worship team. – Kerry Dorrell (859-536-8055/kerrydorrell@gmail.com)

Ushers

In many ways the usher team is the face of St. Andrews. Ushers welcome parishioners and visitors to the service as they distribute the bulletin. They guide us to the Communion rail, are responsible for receiving the offering, and tidying up the sanctuary after the service. The best part of being an usher is learning the names and faces of the parishioners. If you are interested in serving on the usher team on a rotating basis, we have a place for you. – Jim Rogan (859-516-3784/jjrfarm@gmail.com)

... AS A COMMUNITY ...

'Use whatever gift you have received to serve others'

Birthday Card Ministry

Isn't it wonderful to get something in the mail besides bills and junk mail? I hope that you are blessed by the birthday card you receive. I know that I am blessed when I send them. I enjoy lifting you up individually during my prayer time on your special day, and I am thankful in advance for what the Lord is going to do in your life and in the life of our church in this new year. — Kristi Pinto (502-319-8588/kymichel@aol.com)

Book Discussion Group

The book club has continued going strong this past year and we now call ourselves the Fellowship of Good Books! We started off the year reading George Macdonald's fantasy classic, *The Princess and the Goblin* and then spent the rest of the year slowly (since we "mustn't be hasty" - to quote Treebeard) working our way through J.R.R. Tolkien's masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings*. We have seen God work through deepening friendships and engaging in thought-provoking discussion. We thoroughly enjoyed discovering the goodness, truth, and beauty of God by journeying through these wonderful stories together!

We are open to anyone interested in joining us! — Bethany Engler (859-553-1548/bethany.engler@gmail.com)

Bread Breakers

Bread Breakers has continued throughout 2023! Groups fellowship in each other's homes, sharing meals, recipes, testimonies, and fun life stories. This is a great way to establish meaningful relationships within our church. We hope to see more participants in 2024, so listen for the next Bread Breakers announcement. See you at dinner! — Abigail Renner (859-753-4364/abigailrenner7@gmail.com)

Coffee Hour Ministry

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another and all the more as you see the Day approaching. Heb. 10:24

2023 was a great year for the coffee hour. Lots of great coffee made by our famous barista Paul Afdahl. Special thanks go out to our steady team of John Scheffler, Char-mayne Carter and Fred Ruppel for cleanup duties. As we move into 2024, we are looking at trying to reducing our waste by using more mugs and reusable plates and move

away from using so many disposables. This will reduce our costs which can be allocated to other areas of ministry. If you would like to join the coffee crew, we are always looking for more volunteers to assist with the setup and cleanup each week or to volunteer to bring a homemade treat. Anyone interested in joining and helping with this weekly ministry please contact me. — Bill Hallman (859-338-0979/chefwah@msn.com).



Bethany Engler, Abigail Renner, Bishop Frank Lyons, Eugenio Langdoc, Sara Langdoc, Rev. Ben Wulpi

Communications

St. Andrew's has various ways to communicate to the parish and community. Besides our website and parish e-mails, we continue to post a weekly "note" in the Woodford Sun's Church Notes section. This year we have also had a more consistent presence on social media thanks to Abigail Renner. And our St. Andrew's Church sign is now seasonally changed to draw a welcoming attention to our church. — Sharon Werner (859-492-1468/swerner@standrewsky.org)

Fellowship of the Strings

Living in community is at the core of the Christian experience. When we meet in casual settings and develop friendships in the good times of life, it sets strong foundations for dealing with the times that are

not as good. This is the thinking behind The Fellowship of the Strings. We are a group of folks who enjoy playing music. We have no plan or ambition beyond the simple enjoyment of coming together to play music and get to know each other. So far, the group has been a great success. Our meetings are lively with great participation. Members are supportive and understanding. We have our regular members and we continue to reach out to new people. Those who would like more information can contact John Shore directly. Or, just come and play. — John Shore (859-536-6245/john@johnshoremagic.com)

Office Team

The church office team was put to the test several times this year as we changed and adapted to how we do the business of the church. The team had to physically move everything in the office twice due to the building restoration process. After each move we had to adapt to our new space and accessibility challenges. The team also pitched in beautifully when I was ill, twice, and had family issues to tend to. What a blessing this team is to me and St. Andrew's! Sharon Werner (859-492-1468/swerner@standrewsky.org)

Prayer Team

“Don’t worry about anything, but in everything through prayer and petition with thanksgiving present your requests to God.”

Philippians 4:6 St. Andrew’s Prayer Ministry is comprised of two groups, The Prayer List and The Prayer Corner.

The Prayer List has 49 members who faithfully and confidentially pray over every request we receive. Prayer requests can be submitted to me by email, text or phone call, or on a communication card. Once received, a request is sent out by email to those on the list.

Anyone who would like to pray with us, should contact me.

Two Prayer Corner members are at the back of the Sanctuary by the wooden screen every Sunday. They will pray with those who come for prayer. If you would like to participate in this ministry please contact me. Christians are asked to pray for one another. The more we pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ, the closer we will become as a congregation. We have seen God move mightily in our church as we have prayed. Join us and witness how faithful God is to our community.

— Courtenay Lancaster (859-550-3607/priuscw1@gmail.com)

Vestry/Sr. Warden

2023 presented several challenges for the church beginning with the “great flood” that left much of our ministry space damaged and in need of repair. Yet, it is with great joy that we can sit back and reflect on how we navigated these waters with the Lord’s help. Who among us will soon forget the candlelight ordination of the Rev. Todd Renner? Faced with a power outage the church pressed on and the result was an enormous blessing to all those who were able to attend. I greatly appreciate the resilience and joyfulness of God’s people in the face of challenges. I witnessed it firsthand myself as part of the mission team sent to Uganda and upon reflection St. Andrew’s too should celebrate our perseverance as we navigated the waves of 2023. Here are some highlights. It’s in our DNA to lend help to God’s people. We, who were part of the launch of St. Andrew’s, remember the kindness extended to us by many churches in Versailles, allowing us to use their facilities. With this kingdom building approach in mind, St. Andrew’s graciously hosted the Wesley Fellowship following the vote by the local Methodist church to remain in the UMC. At the same time, we opened our doors to a Russian Orthodox church until they could move into other facilities. It was a great reminder that while our facility was not in pristine state, it represented a blessing to others who were without. The building damage kept us from using the space for our Avanza ministry. But praise God, it did not halt the ministry as it pivoted to utilize Huntertown Elementary. The St. Andrew’s ministry team displayed great dexterity in working out how to continue this vital ministry. St. Andrew’s remained resilient and moved forward to host our Creative Arts Camp at the United Methodist Church. The team

stayed focused on the ministry goal and once again blessed many young souls through camp. Finally, Rev. Ben launched a book study of “Gentle and Lowly” by Dane Ortlund. The church centered itself on this study over Lent albeit across multiple small groups. All who participated were greatly blessed through this study to understand the humility of our Savior who graciously came to earth, was made man, and remained humble and steadfast in the face of his crucifixion and resurrection.

Challenges and difficulties in life are ever present. Powering through and overcoming life’s challenges with a humble heart is what we are called to do. Because of the challenges in 2023, I am convinced we are better prepared for the waters that lie ahead in 2024 and beyond. Come let’s go for a sail and see what God has in store! — Brian McLaughlin (859-552-8467/brianboru124@gmail.com)

Vestry/Jr. Warden

Ministry year 2023 had dedicated facility focus which began with the process of addressing the clean-up and reconstruction of the Children’s and Nathan Hall Wing of our church facility, which had suffered major damage from burst water pipes. This undertaking took an unusual amount of time from a planning perspective. We endeavored to not only address the damage recovery alone, but to also incorporate any important changes in

infrastructure for the sake of the ministry. Pre-project planning, holding discussions with insurance adjusters and prospective contractor reviews were carefully executed along with internal staff meetings which all helped launch the project. This finally culminated in a contract signing on September 8, 2023. Product selections and task milestone schedules were agreed upon and the work began. Our dedicated staff was tasked with the office relocation to one quarter of Nathan Hall, dividing that space graciously. We thank parish volunteers for the workday that enabled the quick transition into this space, which helped keep ministry on-going in the church. Sadly, the Creative Arts Camp plans had to be altered due to project schedule delays and other hurdles common with today’s construction environment. The CAC staff worked diligently to bring the camp together with modifications. We were able to continue our coffee hour following our Sunday services, and even with depleted seating arrangements it seemed to me that there was no drop in warm greetings and fellowship which we would desperately miss on a weekly basis! This helped keep me smiling and I was often assured that folks were praying for the project with fervent support during this trying season in our parish. No one, including myself, expected this project would take so long. But I am certain that the result of these inconveniences will be a true blessing to the ministry and will bring honor and glory to our blessed Savior! — Jonathan Werner (859-221-3864/jdwerner@mymetronet.net)



Creative Arts Camp 2023 was held at Versailles UMC.

... OF DISCIPLES ...

'Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior'

Nursery

Our St. Andrew's family is growing! This summer, we hired Cheryl Dorrell as our Nursery Caregiver for St. Andrew's. Her dedication to the Lord and his children is a blessing to us all. We also had four births in our congregation in 2023, so our nursery is sure to be busy in 2024! Through praise and play, Cheryl and her team of volunteers show our youngest members the unconditional love of Christ. We are so grateful to them for faithfully serving our church families. Interested in loving on the little ones? Give me a call! – Abigail Renner (859-753-4364/abigailrenner7@gmail.com)

Children's Ministry

We are just about to enter our third year of Godly Play, our Children's Worship curriculum. With the help of many volunteers, we were able to successfully recreate our Godly Play room in the basement after the flood. The children have adapted to this change admirably, but they are excited about their brand-new space coming soon! I wanted to share a sweet moment from Godly Play in 2023: while sharing about the Psalms, I asked the children, "What part of this Psalm is about you?" One of our children pointed to Psalm 23:6 and replied "Right here! I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever!" What an amazing truth! The Godly Play team is constantly blessed and amazed by the Spirit's presence in our children's lives. On Wednesday evenings over the summer we hosted a 6-week series on the Holy Spirit for our children. They learned about who the Spirit is, how to listen to Him, and the gifts that He gives us. It was wonderful to see our children during the week as well as on Sunday morning! Our Christmas Pageant was a beautiful blessing to the whole church this year! Our actors joined together to tell the magnificent story of God's incarnation and the history that led to Jesus' birth. The pageant and following reception helped bring many generations together to celebrate God's promise to us. – Abigail Renner (859-753-4364/abigailrenner7@gmail.com)

Youth Ministry

Youth Sunday Night Bible Study

2023 was a year of much learning in our youth ministry. We met for a meal (Thanks to all of our meal-providing heroes!), played some rowdy games, and "dug in" studying the Bible, using a simple method called Discovery Bible Study, a method good for new believers and seasoned saints. We began with a Survey of Redemption in Old and New Testaments, and then did a series on the Parables.

Youth Retreat

We had a challenging and thought-provoking retreat at Silver Heights camp in New Albany, IN. Our leaders led the way by sharing their life stories which were entertaining, were sometimes surprising (at least one was shocking), and were inspiring. We hiked into the woods and were challenged on the ropes course. Some sleep took place and there was lots of good food! Some leaders prayed as never before...

Youth Mission Trip

Once again, St. Andrew's sent a group to serve in Eastern Kentucky with Big Creek Mission. Our phenomenal Jack and Rosa Hill led the team. This year's trip was especially needful on the heels of flooding in this part of our state. Our youth shared the love of Jesus in practical ways and were exposed to the cultural and economic challenges that our Eastern Kentucky neighbors face on a daily basis.

A special thanks to our youth team: Ellen Backs (meal coordinator), Melinda McLaughlin, Kathy Hauser, Abigail Renner, and Michael Underwood. – Kerry Dorrell (859-536-8055/kerrydorrell@gmail.com)

God's Girls

God's Girls is a tutoring/discipleship group for middle and high school girls. There are currently 17 students and 5 volunteers. It is amazing to think about how much this group has grown! We meet on Wednesday afternoons where we eat, fellowship, read the

Word, and try to remember physics! This year we are studying spiritual disciplines. So far, we have discussed and practiced prayer, fasting, and simplicity. The girls are learning how to invite God into every area of their lives. Thank you for keeping them in your prayers! – Abigail Renner (859-753-4364/abigailrenner7@gmail.com)

Read Through the Bible

In 2023 our RTB group finished its fifteenth year with a notable effort, reading through the entire Bible in one year. Beginning in 2009 this RTB group read through the entire Bible either every year or every two years, but it had been a number of years since we had looked at the entire Bible in one year. There were some 20 people who undertook this challenge and many who completed the task. John Sheffler led the charge, with daily remarks posted to an online and email blog, with others commenting as they felt led and in-person gatherings monthly as a small group, discussing what we had been reading. For 2024 we're going back to a slower pace, planning to read



Children leaving the service for Godly Play are encouraged and prayed for by Deacon Daniel Jones.

through the Bible in 2-3 years using a companion book. — Fred Ruppel (859-979-4411/ruppelf@outlook.com)

Men's Group

The men's group has been studying and discussing a bible passage chosen from the previous week's RTB schedule. They meet at 6 p.m. at the home of John Sheffler in Versailles. Refreshments and fellowship are followed a discussion of the current topic which begins around 6:30. — Jack Zoldak (859-492-3856/jzoldak@hotmail.com)

Women's Groups

Desiring to know God better...this seems to be the reason for Bible Study. Tuesday night Bible Study is a small

group of women that continues to want to know God by knowing His Word. We love each other, pray and learn from a Godly video teacher or book study. This is an ever-changing group, depending on life demands, but consistent in pursuing God. — Pam Stevens (859-753-4762/pamstevens1018@gmail.com)

A group of women gathers for fellowship, mutual encouragement, study, and prayer on Thursdays from 12:30 p.m. until around 2:00. While we sometimes do a study of a book in the Bible, we have also done other topical studies. Mostly we enjoy each other and are happy to welcome other interested ladies into our group. — Carol Ruppel (859-979-4446/ruppelc83@gmail.com)

... ON MISSION.

'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'

Alcoholics Anonymous

St. Andrew's continues to be the site of a women's Alcoholics Anonymous group that meets from 8-9 a.m. each Saturday in the sanctuary. AA is a program that was created to help those struggling with problematic drinking get sober with the support of their peers through meetings and discussions surrounding addiction. For confidential information about the group contact the church office. — Sharon Werner (859-492-1468/swerner@standrewsky.org).

Anglicans for Life

St. Andrew's has an Anglicans for Life Chapter which focuses on beginning and end-of-life issues such as abortion, adoption and assisted suicide. AFL publishes educational material and provides resources for education, ministry and advocacy to protect the vulnerable and defend the fatherless. St Andrew's focus has primarily been to support Avenues for Women in Frankfort, KY. Avenues provides loving care and help to many women for pregnancy, ultrasounds, both pre- and post-abortion support and parenting classes. We sponsored the Baby Bottle Blessing fundraiser in the spring. In the fall a number of our members attended a prayer and praise service/fundraiser in Lawrenceburg for Avenues for Women. We look forward to our participation with them in 2024. Our AFL chapter needs to better define St. Andrew's mission and goals for AFL this year for activities in addition to our participation with Avenues for Women. If you would like to become a part of our AFL group and have ideas as to how we can expand this ministry we would love to have your participation! — Dick Ullery (412-720-3908/dickullery38@gmail.com)

Avanza

In January 2023, Avanza relocated to Hunteertown Elementary School, where we have been tutoring in the library. We are so blessed that Hunteertown has opened its space to us so that we can continue serving our students while St. Andrew's is under construction. In the

fall of 2023, we introduced a new storybook Bible to Avanza: *The Greatest Story!* The change in art and storytelling keeps the kids engaged and yearning to know more about their God. Avanza currently has 26 Avanza students and 19 volunteers! The whole church supports Avanza by providing snacks, prayer, and transportation. We thank God for providing the resources and people we needed to keep Avanza going this year. Please see Abigail if you would like to get involved! —



Children enjoy the story of Abraham in the dessert in Godly Play.

Abigail Renner (859-753-4364/abigailrenner7@gmail.com)

Bus Ministry

Our St. Andrew's bus has been a real blessing - from hauling kids back and forth to Avanza and God's Girls to picking them up on Sunday mornings to sending the Youth Group off to minister to needs in southern Kentucky. The bus and van have done what would have taken four or five cars (or more!) to do in the past. Still, we're always looking for more bus and van drivers and monitors, including for our once-a-month Sunday morning transportation. An additional bonus for drivers and monitors is getting to know these kids. They truly are a wonderful group! Come join us!! — Fred Ruppel (859-979-4411/ruppelf@outlook.com)

Creative Arts Camp

"There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us." (1 Cor. 12:4-6)

In 2023, St. Andrew's hosted Creative Arts Camp at Versailles United Methodist Church across the street. We were able to do a simplified version of camp while still hosting about 25 kids. The theme this year was God's Good Gifts! Each day we practiced recognizing God's spiritual gifts in ourselves and others. The kids heard stories of people in the Bible who exemplify how to use their spiritual gifts like Deborah, Elisha, Jonah, and Peter. The children also learned how to create beautiful artwork through mediums like needle felting, woodworking, cooking, and drama. Creative Arts Camp is a week packed full of fun for everyone, camper and volunteers alike! Please consider joining us for CAC 2024 this June! — Abigail Renner (859-753-4364/ abigailrenner7@gmail.com)

Community Events

In 2023, St. Andrew's sought to become more involved in our Versailles community! In September, we had a booth at the Twilight Festival, where we were able to offer a nursing and changing station for mothers. In December, we went Christmas Caroling downtown! Thank you to those who volunteered their time to sing and run the booth! Community involvement is a great way to represent Christ to those outside of our church. We hope that in 2024, St. Andrew's can become a brighter source of light in Versailles through various events and ministries (like the Food Pantry). — Abigail Renner (859-753-4364/ abigailrenner7@gmail.com)

Easter Dinner Outreach

For over 18 years, St. Andrew's has worked with Huntertown Elementary School (one of the schools St. Andrew's met in many years ago) to provide Easter dinners and treats to families and children who are struggling financially. We were able to bless approximately 40 families, with this year's baskets targeting our Avanza families. We have had people donate food, money and time to make this happen. This ministry has allowed us to connect with people in the community outside our church walls as we were able to pray and ask the families for any prayer requests. — Jack and Rosa Hill (859-940-8527/ rosa.hill@woodford.kyschools.us)

Freedom Road

Freedom Road began in 2015, as an anonymous recovery group of men and women. We meet weekly at the Versailles Brewing Company, with additional participation via Zoom. Freedom Road applies the principles of 12-step recovery to the Christian life. If you just read "12-step re-

covery" and thought "skid row" or "strung out", you are wildly mistaken! Freedom Road is for anyone who considers sin to be what it is: an enslavement from which we need a Deliverer. Is there some sin or unhealthy habit you have a hard time giving up? Then Freedom Road is for you! All are welcome to join us on the road to freedom. — John Sheffler (571-232-6443/ john.sheffler@gmail.com)

Kroger Community Rewards/Ministry to Uganda

Since 2005 St. Andrew's has earned thousands of dollars for missions work in Uganda through Kroger rebates. To continue earning rebates with Kroger's Community Rewards Program, parishioners must register their Kroger Plus cards online at Krogercommunityrewards.com and choose St. Andrew's (ID number 11053) as the organization to receive rebates. — Laura Little-Zoldak (859-312-8856/ littlezoldak@hotmail.com)

Men's Ministry

This ministry has been active in the church and the community in the past. But more recently our activities have been at our church property as we have participated in yard clean up, and repairs. Our best blessing has been participating in Creative Arts Camp, and seeing the beaming smiles on the children when they finish their projects. They experience the love of Christ and the gifts

they received from him. — Paul Afdahl (859-753-3149/ afdahlviking1@windstream.net)

Mission Committee

The Mission Committee at St. Andrew's exists to encourage and support efforts to make disciples locally, nationally, and internationally. To that end, we allocate funds to support various missionary efforts connected with our church members and disburse disaster relief when situations warrant it.

We have six missionary partners who receive yearly support from St. Andrew's: 1) Mark and Tommie Bruner in Czech Republic and Slovakia; 2) The Gateway Center, run by Ken and Martha Shirkey, Louisville, Kentucky; 3) Timo and Laura Harkonen and family serving in Finland and around the world online; 4) the Jiran Collective staffed by Rev. Megan Weber and Rev. Raouf in Dearborn, Michigan; 5) Joel and Elizabeth Peterson in Cairo, Egypt; and 6) Bethany Tennent living and working with the Alagwa people in Tanzania. The Mission Committee submits weekly prayers for these missionaries and the persecuted church in the Prayers of the People. In addition, we distribute information about them and have parish members sign cards of encouragement for them on Mission Sunday each year. Bookmarks highlighting each one are distributed so that parish members will pray for and support them in their important but difficult ministries around the world.



Christmas caroling in downtown Versailles.

Our partnership with the Bunyoro Kitara Diocese in Uganda continues through support of girls' education in a culture which is often male-focused. During 2023 church members sponsored 22 girls at Canon Njangali High School in Hoima. Additionally, three members of St. Andrew's visited the diocese in July, 2023.

The Mission Committee welcomes parish members interested in missionary or relief efforts to submit requests for help with funding. The Youth Group has received support for various mission trips and projects, and many different initiatives have been considered over the years. Are you passionate about an idea? Let us help! – Carol Ruppel (859-979-4446/ruppelc83@gmail.com)

Mission Trip to Uganda

In July, Carol Ruppel, Brian McLaughlin, and Kerry Dorrell* travelled to our sister diocese of Bunyoro-Kitara in NW Uganda. This diocese was our congregation's "home" for a while in the early days of St. Andrew's, when the ECUSA was embracing a progressive agenda that excluded the biblical values of our congregation. Our own Nathan Hall is named after beloved Ugandan Bishop Nathan Kyamanywa.

After a gap of many years in visiting and a delay in 2022 because of Ebola, our team went to encourage the church there, to build relationships with new leaders and to serve in any way they desired. Aply hosted by Canon Eric Twine, we hit the ground running and visited many churches, both rural and urban. We saw first-hand the struggles of ministry, the intentional expansion of the church, and the incredible life of sacrifice that marks the clergy and laity in the Church of Uganda. We visited and listened, ate wonderful Ugandan food, spoke many times, and prayed, sang, and danced! We had the privilege of leading a pastor's conference on deliverance follow up and the Disciple Bible Study Method.

We had the honor of visiting retired Bishop Nathan and his beautiful wife, Mama Peace. We also were blessed to greet and visit with outgoing Bishop Samuel Kahuna and his wife Mama Sarah. As we shared some of the struggles of ministry in our context, they were greatly alarmed to hear of the cultural changes taking place in our land. We shared with children in the elementary and secondary schools that the diocese sponsors and met with all of the sponsored girls that we support. Throughout the trip, Eric and many of the young pastors under his wings helped us process and understand what we were experiencing.

The take-aways are numerous, but we have some practical needs that were presented for our consideration.

Many villages still lack clean water, and we are in the process of conversations that will hopefully lead to drilling our first well that the village church will have ownership of, responsibility for maintaining, and will be a blessing from the church to its community. We are also being encouraged to continue and perhaps expand our sponsorship of young adults in their education, which is still the most powerful agent of change for this developing nation.

As the center of Anglicanism (and Christianity) continues to shift to the

global south, especially Africa, we have much to learn from our brothers and sisters. They have much to teach us about ministry in a multicultural context, evangelism in the midst of persecution, and passion in their discipleship of believers and worshipping communities. We want to continue to build ever-stronger relationships for mutual encouragement and service for God's Kingdom.

*A fourth team member, Darryl Pinto had visa complications and wasn't able to go. He is passionate about community development and is helping us with plans regarding water well work.



Brian McLaughlin and Carol Ruppel with some of the girls we sponsor from the Canon Njangali High School in Hoima, Uganda.



The "Body of Christ" at work (and play) during Creative Arts Camp 2023.

L to R: Hannah Jones, Melinda McLaughlin, Paige Johnston, Joy Hinkle, Carol Ruppel, Shelly Hallman, Kathy Hauser