



Presbytidings – August 2024

An outreach of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

Words from Your Transitional Pastor The Rev. Eric Koenig-Reinke

Dear St. Andrew family,

I am so thrilled to be with you all. As of the time I am writing this I am in conversation with PPR, and the Session about renewing my contract, God willing and the discernment of the Holy Spirit that action will be approved before this Presbytidings meets you. It seems a fitting time to take stock of where we are and where we are going.

A lot has happened over the ten months that I have been in Albuquerque and working in ministry with you all. Meals have been served, worship has continued and been both joyful and meaningful, staff have left us and new staff have joined us, we continue to hold funerals that witness to the resurrection. I have noticed a congregation that is both flexible and rooted in tradition. You all are warm, welcoming, and passionate. It is clear that the passion is still present, and that there is energy within the system, and I believe St. Andrew will be best served by focusing and directing that energy. Which brings me to another aspect of church life, the transition, that has already started, and will only pick up this fall.

While all aspects of a church life are important, the most important project I have been working on is setting up our transitional ministry small groups. Other transitional work is constantly being done, but these small groups will be the bulk of where the 'transitional work' will occur. Within the conversations that occur over the course of these meetings, we will be seeking the emerging mission/vision of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. There are still plenty of details to be finalized, but these small groups will be vital to finding, and crafting, the emerging mission/vision that is St. Andrew.

We will be offering 7 different groups, several will occur in the church building, one at a member's house, one at La Vida Llena, one at Manzano Del Sol, and one on zoom. Each Small Group will meet 4 times, (for example, the group you sign up for may meet Mondays at 5 PM). Groups will meet every other week, for around 90 minutes, beginning the week of September 29th. Some will be in the evening, and some during the day, and are scheduled for different days of the week. A full schedule will be publicized when all times are finalized, but trust there is a variety of options, and we believe this will allow for maximum participation. Members of our church family will be facilitating our groups, and all who are a part of the life of this community are invited to participate.

There will be more communications about this in the weeks to come, as we make final preparations, and begin the process of signing individuals up for small groups. I am not just inviting you, I am *highly* encouraging each and every one of you to participate.

Peace and Blessings,

Pastor Eric

T R A N S I T I O N

Transitional Pastor
Rev. Eric
Koenig-Reinke
standrewpastoreric@gmail.com

Office Hours
by Appointment

Administrative Asst.
Birgitta Gustafson

Email
adm.standrewabq@gmail.com

Church Office Hours
Tuesday – Thursday
8:30 am – 2:30 pm

Sunday Worship
9:30 am

Phone/Fax
Phone 505-881-9626
Fax 505-884-9636

St. Andrew News and Events

Words from your
Transitional
Pastor

New Staff

Mission Focus
Climate Crisis

Adult CE

Audio-Sound
System
Outreach Update

Presbyterian
Women

Session
Summary

Emord Family Up-
date

Birthdays
Lectionary
Calendar

NEW STAFF

Julie Taylor—Music Director:

I am so excited to be a part of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church as your Interim Music Director! I am eager to get to know all the members. So, I'll start by helping you get to know me.

I grew up in Greensboro, NC. My family was active with a Southern Baptist Church. I always wanted to go into ministry. I earned my Bachelor of Music degree in applied violin and voice from Meredith College in Raleigh, NC, in 1977. I served as summer youth minister at churches during my summer breaks. I was ordained into the ministry by the NC Baptist State Convention at Inwood Baptist Church in Raleigh in 1979, where I served part-time during seminary as the Director of Music and Youth. Upon earning the Basic Unit of Clinical Pastoral Education from the North Carolina Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, NC, I completed my Master of Divinity degree in 1980 at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in Wake Forest, NC. I accepted a short-term position as Assistant Pastor in Staunton, VA, then moved to Richmond, VA, as Minister of Music and Youth at a church. Simultaneously, I pursued graduate studies in voice and violin at Virginia Commonwealth University. After earning a Fellowship with the National Orchestra of New York in New York City, I made the big move to Manhattan, where I rehearsed at Columbia University, performed at Carnegie Hall, and was active at Riverside Church.



Seeking a way to afford to stay in New York City, I became a convention manager for large national associations. At the American Society of Civil Engineers, one of my assignments was to manage the Aerospace Technical Division meetings, which held a conference every other year in the land of rocket science – you guessed it, Albuquerque! I fell in love with the weather, the sunsets, the Sandias, green chile, Native American jewelry ... Although I relocated with ASCE to Reston, VA, then moved to Philadelphia, PA, to work at the American Association for Cancer Research, I still wanted to be in Albuquerque. I finally had an opportunity and moved here to work at the Albuquerque Convention and Visitors Bureau in 2006. I did that for 5 years, then I switched over to the hotel side in sales, working with companies and groups traveling to Albuquerque.

In Philadelphia, I joined First Presbyterian Church. When I told my pastor I was moving to Albuquerque, he recommended that I join his friends at First Presbyterian here. I have been an active member there since 2006, singing with the chancel choir and serving as a deacon. Also since 2006, I have played the violin with the Albuquerque Philharmonic, which rehearses here at St. Andrew.

I am here to stay. In 2009, I married Scott Swezy, an artist and musician who grew up in New York and moved here in 1974. I have a stepson and daughter-in-law with him and two beautiful grandsons. At home, we have 3 cats, 3 box turtles, and now 2 baby turtles who consume much of our time.

Please help me get to know you and tell me about your path to St. Andrew, too!

Birgitta Gustafson—Church Administrator:

I am delighted to join the staff of St. Andrew Presbyterian Church as your church administrator! I am a member of Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church and currently serving on Session as co-chair of the Worship Committee, and chair of the Nominating Committee.



I've lived in New Mexico for 10 years, and recently retired from teaching English at Cleveland High School in Rio Rancho. I taught public school for 13 years, 6 years in Colorado Springs, and 7 years in the Albuquerque/Rio Rancho area. Before that I worked in a number of churches as a Christian Educator.

I serve on the board of Friends of Libraries and Literacy, Sandoval County, and coordinate Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, as well as volunteering in our used bookstore, which supports our programs and grants. If you like used bookstores, or have books to donate, just let me know! We can always use donations.

I have two adult children: Ali, in Colorado Springs, and Laila, who is living with me and completing a masters in Speech Language Pathology at UNM. I also share the house with two pugs.

This past May, I did a Mission Focus on Habitat for Humanity and proposed a search for a "team" to replace me in getting our work with them accomplished in the future. I promised to work on the Habitat projects through December of 2024 and work alongside anyone willing to take on one segment of the "team". I prepared job descriptions for three areas:



- 1) Enlisting volunteers for home construction days on Unity houses built by churches,
- 2) Serving on the Habitat Faith Relations committee,
- 3) Promotion of the building of a Unity House at the SAPC Alternative Christmas Fair

Two of the three responsibilities have been assumed by willing St. Andrew volunteers. Janice Harder will coordinate enlisting volunteers for home construction days and Kathy Renfro will promote the building of a Unity house at the annual Alternative Christmas Fair. This leaves serving on the Habitat Faith Relations Committee still open, but changes were made at their last meeting in June. First, they are changing monthly meetings to quarterly meetings, so instead of going to 12 meetings each year, one has to attend only 4 meetings! Second, Habitat is reinstating churches supplying lunches for a construction work crew of about 40 people on a Saturday for at least one time during the year. This means that St. Andrew will need to recruit volunteers, plan a menu, prepare the food and deliver it to the build site by 11:15 and get it set up for an 11:30 serving. I will have the job descriptions available at worship services if anyone would like a copy...or email me at mstoops@swcp.com or call me at 505-265-8358 if you have questions. Thank you! -Marilyn Stoops

Mission Focus — HSP Health Care Cost Drivers

As most of you know, in order for us to have a Bill that puts the Health Security Plan into effect, we have to deal with what we call the COST DRIVERS that continue to drive our healthcare costs up:

1. Rising hospital costs – Global Budgets – a process that would provide a predictable revenue source for a health facility’s annual budget.
2. Strengthen state oversight and enforcement over consolidations impacting Health Services, costs, and quality. Address unregulated private equity control. The Office of the Superintendent of Insurance has set up 4 Affinity Groups to receive public comments on this issue. They want
 - people who represent local communities and consumer Advocacy groups, of which Health Security is a member.
 - Health Professionals, Hospitals and Insurance Carriers.If you know anyone who fits these categories, and would like to get more information or become involved with one of these Affinity Groups, please have them contact the Deputy Director of OSI, Collin.Baillio@state.nm.us. I also have his phone number, or they can contact me.
3. Develop a standardized health professional payment system, so that all providers are fairly compensated.
4. Develop a secure and interoperable IT system that gives providers the medical information they need regardless of who provides the insurance coverage.
5. Out-of-control drug prices – the solution could be to join an existing consortium (Oregon, Washington and Nevada have created one that does not rely on costly middlemen to negotiate drug prices (PBM's).
6. And many other details.

The details developed in the next 3 years will lead to a more robust Health Security Act for legislators to pass. The Legislative Health and Human Services Committee is considering setting up a subcommittee that specifically focuses on Health Cost Drivers. We will probably have a Bill to support this subcommittee during the 2025 Legislative Session. I will let you know, so you can contact your Senators and Representatives, and take another step toward making Health Security a reality for all New Mexicans. Thank you!

<https://www.osi.state.nm.us/pages/misc/health-care-consolidation> (OSI website)
colin.baillio@state.nm.us 505-490-3178 (Deputy Director of OSI) - Please make sure folks let Colin know that they heard about this opportunity through the Health Security Campaign.

The Corporate Crimes Against Health Care Act of 2024 **Senator Elizabeth Warren**

Endorsements: Americans for Financial Reform, Private Equity Stakeholder Project, American Federation of Teachers, Take Medicine Back, Massachusetts Nurses Association, American Economic Liberties Project, Groundwork Collaborative, Community Catalyst

Over the last decade, private equity fund assets have more than doubled, totaling \$8.2 trillion in 2023. While private equity funds have purchased companies in nearly every sector of the economy, their aggressive deal-making in the health care sector poses grave risks to patient health and raises questions about the potential abuse of taxpayer dollars, as private equity companies routinely load up portfolio companies with usurious debt, sell off valuable assets, and extract exorbitant dividends and fees—regardless of how their investments perform. Unfortunately, lax corporate accountability and transparency laws have provided cover for private equity’s parasitic practices, allowing executives to plunder hospitals, nursing homes, provider practices, and other health care entities with impunity.

In Massachusetts specifically, private equity greed drove Steward Health Care (Steward)—which operates eight hospitals in the state—into bankruptcy. The company’s problems began in 2016, when company executives and Steward’s then-private equity owner sold the hospitals’ real estate to a real estate investment trust (REIT), saddling the hospitals with extortionate rent payments that ultimately landed Steward in \$9 billion of debt. It is past time we hold private equity firms and corporate executives accountable for driving companies like Steward into bankruptcy—and empower regulators to prevent similar crises from happening in the future.

The Corporate Crimes Against Health Care Act will:

- Create a new criminal penalty of up to 6 years in prison for executives who loot health care entities like nursing homes and hospitals, if that looting results in a patient’s death.
- Provide state attorneys general and the DOJ with the power to claw back all compensation, including salaries, issued to private equity and portfolio company executives within a 10-year period before or after an acquired health care firm experiences serious, avoidable financial difficulties due to that looting.
- Authorize an associated civil penalty of up to 5 times the clawback amount.
- Prohibit payments from federal health programs to entities that sell assets or use assets for a loan collateral made to a REIT, with an exemption for current arrangements; repeal a rule in the Tax Code that allows taxable REIT subsidiaries to exert influence on the *operations* of health care entities; and remove the 20 percent pass-through deduction, passed in the 2017 Trump tax cuts, for all REIT investors.
- Require health care providers receiving federal funding to publicly report mergers, acquisitions, changes in ownership and control, and financial data, including debt and debt-to-earnings ratios.
- Mandate an HHS OIG report to Congress on the harms of corporatization in health care.

The Role of Private Equity in Healthcare

Quick Facts about Private Equity

MASSIVE INVESTMENTS

Private equity (PE) firms made significant investments into healthcare during the 2010s, totalling around \$750 billion. PE has especially zoned in on healthcare as an area of interest, as 18% of all reported PE deals in 2020 were in healthcare compared to 12% in 2010. In 2021 alone, PE firms invested over \$200 billion on healthcare acquisitions. These acquisitions include purchases of hospitals, nursing homes, physicians practices, freestanding emergency departments, hospice agencies, and more.

Private equity currently owns around 460 U.S. hospitals, accounting for 8% of all private hospitals and 22% of all proprietary for-profit hospitals. These hospitals disproportionately (26%) serve rural populations.

THE PE BUSINESS MODEL

PE firms oversee funds that include money from large investors, such as pension funds, insurance companies, university endowments, and wealthy individuals. The firm then uses this money to purchase companies; when this is a public company, PE often makes it private. However, PE firms usually borrow money to fund most of their acquisitions rather than solely using investor funds.

At the same time, the PE firm puts the debt onto their acquired portfolio company, meaning that the company rather than PE is legally responsible for paying back the money. Additionally, PE investments are short term where the firm wants to earn as much money as possible before selling a company off in often between a 3 to 7 year window.

\$200 Billion

In 2021 alone, private equity firms invested a record-breaking amount, exceeding previous years' totals, on healthcare acquisitions.

11% Higher Mortality

In 2021 alone, private equity firms invested a record-breaking amount, exceeding previous years' totals, on healthcare acquisitions.

25.4% Poorer Care

Medicare patients admitted to PE-owned hospitals experienced significantly more adverse conditions from their stay compared to patients at other hospitals.

22% of Hospitals

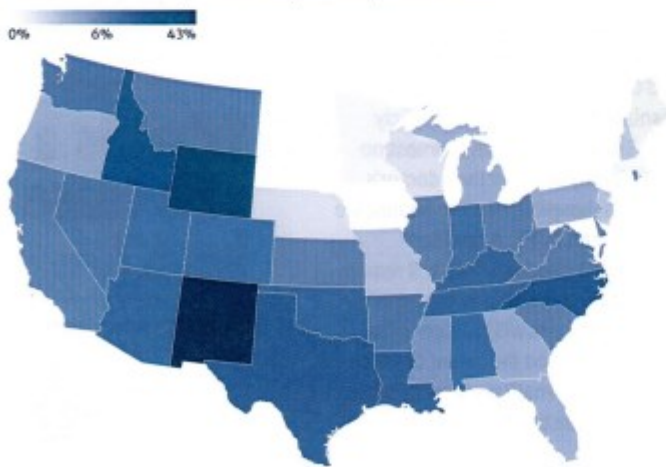
Private equity firms own 22% of all proprietary for-profit hospitals in the United States. These PE-owned hospitals disproportionately serve rural populations, accounting for 26% of hospitals in rural areas.

3 to 7 Years Turnover

Private equity firms typically aim to sell off acquired healthcare companies within just 3 to 7 years, prioritizing rapid profit over long-term stability.

Density of Private Equity Owned Hospitals

Percent of PE-Owned Hospitals out of all private hospitals in each state



Source: Private Equity Stakeholder Project



More resources on private equity in the healthcare industry.

The Role of Private Equity in Healthcare

CUTTING CORNERS

To earn as much as possible, PE firms employ financial strategies that often strain providers and workers alike. For example, PE firms direct their portfolio companies to conduct dividend recapitalizations, meaning that the companies take out more debt and use that money to make payments to the PE firm and its investors.

PE companies can also strictly manage the operations of healthcare providers, directing them to decrease staffing and reduce less-profitable services. Through sale-leasebacks, PE firms have forced providers to sell their assets – such as their real-estate – send those profits back to the PE investors, and then pay rent on the properties they once owned.

LOWER QUALITY, HIGHER COSTS

PE-acquired healthcare providers often provide lower quality of care and higher costs for patients. A 2023 *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* analysis found that Medicare patients admitted to PE-owned hospitals suffered 25.4% more negative conditions from their hospital stay compared to other hospitals, including a 27.3% more falls and 37.7% more central line-associated bloodstream infections.

In 2021, the National Bureau of Economic Research published a paper showing that patients discharged from PE-owned nursing homes had an 11% higher mortality rate within 90 days of their release. A 2020 *JAMA Internal Medicine* study found that patients had to pay over \$400 more per day during inpatient stays at PE-owned hospitals compared to others.

STEWARD HEALTHCARE

The PE firm Cerberus Capital used the sale-leaseback tactic with the Steward Health Care system, leading them to eventually file for bankruptcy and affecting 31 hospitals across the country Massachusetts, Texas, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Florida, Arkansas, and Louisiana. Originally, Steward purchased Caritas Christi Health Care in 2010, sold off most of its property to a real estate investment trust, and then used the sale revenue to (A) give itself hundreds of millions in dividends and (B) buy out 27 hospitals in nine states from 2016-2019 to form the Steward Health Care platform. While the debt loaded onto Steward's hospitals eventually caused financial collapse, Cerberus exited in 2020, receiving \$782 million for itself and its investors. On the other hand, patients, including the 200,000 served by nine Massachusetts hospitals, face closures and reduced access to emergency care.

LACK OF TRANSPARENCY

Unlike publicly-traded companies, private and PE-owned healthcare providers do not need to make financial and other key organizational information publicly available. Thus, patients have almost no means to identify whether their doctor's practice, local hospital, or other healthcare provider is owned by PE. A finalized November 2023 rule from CMS will require disclosure of PE ownership to the agency. However, this process will take up to five years to complete and the extent to which the PE-related information will be publicly available and realistically accessible is unknown.

“[I]t’s virtually impossible for a patient to know whether or not their doctor’s office is owned by a private equity company.”

Dr. Christopher Whaley
Associate Director of the
Center for Advancing Health
Policy through Research, Brown
University School of Public Health

200K Patients

Cerberus Capital's use of the sale-leaseback tactic affected 31 hospitals across 8 states, potentially impacting care for 200,000 patients in Massachusetts alone.

What is a sale-lease back?

A strategy where a private equity company sells its property to raise capital, then immediately leases that same property back from the new owner. This creates long-term financial strain through lease obligations.



Food & Supply Wish List 2024

Personal Care + PPE

Shampoo/Conditioner
Body Wash/Bar Soap
Bras/Underwear (New)
Hand Soap
Shaving Cream
Cough Drops
Tums/heartburn medication
First Aid Kits/ Triple Antibiotic

SUPPLIES

Paper towels
Trash bags 33 gallon 13 gallon and
8 Gallon
Toilet Paper
Brooms
Easy spin mops
Shower Liners
Bathroom Rugs
Twin Comforters/Sheets
Lysol/409 Spray
Toilet Bowl Cleaner
Toilet Brushes
Windex
Dish Soap
Laundry detergent
Powder Oxiclean
Original Pine-Sol
Disinfectant wipes
Bleach
Rubber Gloves
Extension cords
Power strips

Paint Brushes
Lamps
Towels and Wash Cloths (new or like new)
Bassinet (new or like new, no recalls)
Pack& Plays (new or like new, no recalls)
Gift cards – Walmart, Target, gas

KITCHEN/FOOD

Paper Plates
Paper Cups
Paper Bowls
Plastic Utensils
Salad Dressing
Single Serving Snacks
Fruit juices and drink mixes
Canned Fruit
Ground Coffee
Cereal
Bottled Water
Spices, extracts, gravy, and sauce packets
Soy sauce, BBQ sauce, hot sauce
Cake, Bisquick and dessert mixes
Syrup
Instant rice
Mac and Cheese
Spaghetti Noodles
Spaghetti Sauce
Mayonnaise, Mustard, Ketchup
Olives, artichokes, sundried tomatoes
Non-stick cooking spray
Commercial plastic wrap
Aluminum foil
Gallon zipper storage bags

We are currently accepting donations by appointment. To schedule call (505) 246-9244 Ext. 108

10300 Constitution NE, Albuquerque, NM 87112 ~ (505) 246-9244 ~ www.barrettfoundation.org

CLIMATE CRISIS REPORT

Submitted by Bill Renfro

The changing of the climate that threatens life on this sacred planet has no place in politics. But the following is contained in the 2025 proposal that is designated to be promoted within the first 180 days of an election. Pay attention to these words from Yale “Climate Connections” and **VOTE FOR THE PRESERVATION OF ALL SACRED LIFE ON THIS SACRED EARTH!**

Project 2025 on Climate Crisis:

Broadly speaking, Project 2025 proposals aim to scale down the federal government and empower states. The document calls for “unleashing all of America’s energy resources” by eliminating federal restrictions on fossil fuel drilling on public lands, curtailing federal investments in renewable energy technologies, and easing environmental permitting restrictions and procedures for new fossil fuel projects such as power plants.

Within the Department of Energy, offices dedicated to clean energy research and implementation would be eliminated, and energy efficiency guidelines and requirements for household appliances would be scrapped. The environmental oversight capacities of the Department of the Interior and the Environmental Protection Agency would be curbed significantly or eliminated altogether, preventing these agencies from tracking methane emissions, managing environmental pollutants and chemicals, and conducting climate change research.

In addition to these major overhauls, Project 2025 advocates for getting rid of smaller and lesser-known federal programs and statutes that safeguard public health and environmental justice. It recommends eliminating the Endangerment Finding — the legal mechanism that requires the EPA to curb emissions and air pollutants from vehicles and power plants, among other industries, under the Clean Air Act. It also recommends axing government efforts to assess the social cost of carbon, or the damage each additional ton of carbon emitted causes. And it seeks to prevent agencies from assessing the “co-benefits,” or the knock-on positive health impacts, of their policies, such as better air quality.

The effects of the climate crisis: massive wildfires, floods, inundated islands, loss of polar caps, greenhouse gases and rising temperatures are most devastating to people on the brink of existence!

Thank You for our Audio and Sound System!!

The state-of-the-art audio system and the visual system that we all enjoy every Sunday at St Andrew have been the result of a lot of work, for a long time, by a lot of people. This article is an abbreviated chronology of the work that has been done to get us where we're at, as well as a profound Thank-You to those who made this happen.

Sound came to St. Andrew with the dedication of the new sanctuary in 1983. A sound booth was suspended from the ceiling on the south wall and wired microphones for the pulpit. Jim Dillow returned to Albuquerque from California during 2000 and shortly after, modifications were made to the sanctuary and include the addition of the current sound room. Over time, upgrades were made to the systems and included the production of CD's (audio) of the services. During 2009, a system was installed that allowed people to hear the service through their hearing aids. Over time, a digital projector was used to project visuals on a screen at the front of the Sanctuary.

In 2016, Sally Aber asked Jim Dillow why we didn't live stream the service. The challenge was taken and a primitive live stream was implemented with one computer and a web cam. The computer and web cam initially provided poor quality video, and limitations of the sound mixer made it difficult to provide separate sound mixes both for the Sanctuary and the Live-Stream. During 2018, Wirecast software was purchased (on sale no less ☐) to enhance the live stream broadcast, a camcorder was added to upgrade the video stream, and a second computer was added. At that point, the services that were live streamed were recorded on YouTube and the link for them as well as a year's worth of Sunday services were available on the website.

During 2020, the pandemic arrived, and the live stream became the primary connection to the church for most parishioners. By 2021 major upgrades were undertaken to enhance the sound system with a state-of-the-art digital sound mixer controlled by an I-pad sound mixer. Additionally, three large screen tv's were added in the Sanctuary to improve the quality of projected imagery. The TVs provided a quantum increase in the quality of the projected imagery and reduced the need for bulletins.

Recently, the webcam and camcorders were replaced with a "Hi-Def" camera remotely controlled with a joystick and preset camera shots reducing the need from two people to a single operator. Currently, the live-stream system needs to be put away after each use. Soon a system of cabinets will be used to house the live-stream equipment so it will be "wired in". This will make the weekly setup much easier.

Jim Dillow added "We have come a long way, keeping pace with the technology that suits our needs! But it seems like each time we add something new, we find new things that can go wrong. And this is probably more evident with the live stream than the sanctuary sound. The emphasis for the near future will be to stabilize the reliability of the live stream and sound. There are indicators on the displays that tell us when things are not right, but sometimes we don't see the clues because we're busy keeping up with the service. One way you can help if you are watching the live stream is to call me when there are technical problems at 505 710 8050 and let me know."

Jim not only coordinated this project for many years but was also the driver for the Live-Stream. Bob Bush took the lead and provided the work as well as the expertise on the audio. They both provided the many innovations that have taken place. Of course, they have had the help of many other people along the way who deserve recognition and thanks as well. The individuals who make up our tech team are: Bob Busch, Suzanne Busch, Valerie Dalton, Jim Dillow, Josiah Fidel, Chris Fogel, Kevin Hughes, Richard Irish, James Macklin, Sharon Macklin, Janet McEwen, Barbara Sanders, David Schneider and Karen Ulack.

If 'a picture is worth a thousand words' then these pictures will show you some of the progress that's been made.

2016

2024



So, Thank-You for the leadership, guidance and hard work improving the production and streaming of our services. We appreciate it, and you, every Sunday!

Chris and Marie

The St. Andrew choir is looking for new members for the coming year. Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings for an hour and a half. Performances are regularly on Sunday mornings for the 9:30 AM service, with a warm-up rehearsal at 8:45 AM. We are looking for members in all sections. Please contact Julie Taylor after the service or call the church office to set up an informal meeting (aka, very non-intimidating audition).



The Offering

I have heard some questions about our practice of taking the offering through bringing forward our gifts to place them on the communion table. Our offering practice is somewhat driven by logistics. It is easy and safe to bring our offerings up without the need for ushers. It allows for guests, and others to contribute to our life, and is the primary method of collecting our loose change offering. Coming forward for the offering is a participatory and kinetic act within the service. While practicality is one thing, we are also guided by theological, and ethical concerns.

The Book of Order offers the following guidance:

“The offering of material gifts in worship is an expression of our self-offering, as an act of gratitude for God’s grace. We give our lives to God through Jesus Christ, who gave his life for us. The practice of offering also reflects our stewardship of God’s good creation. Mindful that the earth and everything in it belong to God, we present tithes and offerings for use in Christ’s ministry and mission.”



As I reflect on our practice, and our guidance from the Book of Order, I believe that it is clear that the time of offering is about so much more than simply offering a chance to collect money. It is about a visible, tangible, commitment and response to God’s overwhelming grace. A chance to commit to the work of ministry, even if all we do is drop a few pennies in the basket, our time of reflection on God’s Word, support of our life together, our public offering is just one piece of our discipleship.

Need Summer Clothes

Every Sunday after a delicious meal, our Neighborhood Friends can get hygiene packets and gently used clothing and shoes. We are especially in need of men’s summer clothing. We welcome women’s summer clothing as well. Check your closet for those clothes you no longer use. We especially need t-shirts and jeans. We do not need dressy clothing nor pajamas. No winter clothing at this time, as our storage is limited. New underwear and sox are always welcome. Need me to pick up your donation? Call Sharon Craig.



UPDATES FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE:



A church's website is one of the most important tools available to reach visitors and potential new members. We're working with Josiah Fidel, who is on our tech team, to create a new look for our website. We need your feedback and would love to have you work with a small group of us to help with the design and the information that will be included. If you're interested, please contact Marie at 505.440.6507.

The Outreach Committee continues to try to reach new members in several ways. We've been working on "standardizing" the way that we greet visitors to ensure that they receive important information about who we are and what we do. St Andrew is very involved in the community, and this is certainly part of our story and a part that we want told. There are more parts to that story as well; the way that our building is used, and the many organizations that our members are involved with outside of our church. We're designing a pamphlet that will summarize all of this and can be given to visitors. Stay Tuned! We'll be meeting with Ponderosa and Share Your Care to update the signage for the building, both inside and out. Our first sign to go up will be restroom signs that make navigating a little easier for visitors. We're excited that Carl Soderberg has decided to join us again. His historical perspective and ideas are invaluable. Welcome back Carl!

We can't be successful in attracting new members if our current members aren't involved with the process. Thank you for the effort you put into greeting visitors, and for engaging them as they continue to visit us. As always, thank you for wearing your name tag! It really helps new members (and some old ones) learn our names! It makes a huge difference! Please keep sharing your ideas with us!

Your Outreach Committee, Esther Irish, Elmer Jackson, Isabel Ozechowski, Sam Sandoval, Carl Soderberg and Marie StClaire

Session Summary – August 20, 2024 Clerk's Report / Suzanne Busch

Average worship attendance: June -77, July - 92. Membership as of July 31, 2024 - 148.

AUGUST APPROVALS:

- Approve Marie StClaire as Financial Secretary and Chris Fogel as Assistant/Back-up.
- Building and Grounds to remove or pay to remove the plants on the east side and provide NO TRESSPASSING signs on the wall completion by September 17.
- Joe Woodworth to authorize NCB Mechanical to install 2 new air/heat units to be paid from our building reserve (\$26,637.19).
- Approve Eric Koenig-Reinke's contract through September 30, 2025 and may apply for permanent position if desired.

<u>July 2024</u>	Current Month	Year-to-Date	Budget
Total Income	13,675	240,292	290,700
Total Expenses	35, 250	202,512	346,436
Difference	-21, 576	37,780	-55,736

Lectionary Schedule

Sunday – August 4

11th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading 2 Sam.11:26-12:13a

Psalm 51:1-12

Second Reading Eph. 4:1-16

Gospel John 6:24-35

Sunday – August 11

12th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading 2 Sam 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

Psalm 130

Second Reading Eph. 4:25-5:2

Gospel John 6:35, 41-51

Sunday – August 18

13th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading 1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14

Psalm 111

Second Reading Eph. 5:15-20

Gospel John 6:51-58

Sunday – August 25

14th Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading 1 Kings 8:22-30, 41-43

Psalm 84

Second Reading Eph. 6:10-20

Gospel John 6:56-69

Please join the Presbyterian Women (PW) of St. Andrew for our first Bible Study on Tuesday, September the 10th at 10:00 am in the adult CE room. The Study this year is titled *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. Rev. Catherine Robinson will lead the discussion of Lesson One and there will be a brief PW business meeting following. The study book can be purchased from Linda Barnes (lkb94015@yahoo.com) in the coming weeks leading up to September 10th. All are welcome to join us.



August Birthdays

- 1 C.C. Sandoval
- 5 Julie Steck
- 10 John Daley
Therese Smith
- 11 Mary Whitcomb
- 13 Rod Kirchmeyer
Marta Light
- 18 Marcos Griego
- 19 Alice Wimberly
- 20 Bennie James Montoya
- 25 Paula Cuevas
Jake Spidle
Deanna Vick
Chuck Evans
- 27 Amy Gorman
- 29 James Wise
- 31 Christine Sierra



This summer, the PC(USA) General Assembly met in Salt Lake City. If you would like to read more about the many things that happened, you can follow this link to read the GA in Brief, prepared by the Office of the General Assembly and Unified Communications.

<https://www.pcusa.org/get/resources/resource/58434/>


From the Emords

Our family is changing and growing. First, Sam, formerly known as Samantha, is in the process of transitioning. Likely, this doesn't come as a surprise for many of you and he continues to be the amazing and wonderful person you know. Second, our family is growing with the upcoming marriage of Sam and Sophie Trusty in September 2024. A small family ceremony will take place on September 21. On Sunday, September 22, we are hosting a reception for Sam and Sophie at St. Andrew, immediately after worship in the activity room. The reception will be a St. Andrew style lunch, and we'll be providing slider style sandwiches and drinks. If you like, you could bring a side dish such as a salad, deviled eggs, hot dish or dessert. The St. Andrew community has always been an important part of Sam's life and as a family we look forward to sharing our joy of Sam and Sophie's union with our church family.

August 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10 am Stroke Club 10:00 am Spiritual Formation/Zoom	2	3
4 9:30 am Worship Service and Communion 10:30 am Fellowship Time 3-6 pm Encantada	5	6	7	8 10 am Stroke Club 10:00 am Historical Jesus Group on Zoom	9	10
11 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Fellowship Time 2-5 pm Encantada 5:30-8 pm NM Peace Choir Kick- off	12	13	14 6:30 Southwest Sniffers	15 10:00 am Spiritual Formation/Zoom 10 am Stroke Club	16 7:30 Bubonicon Planning	17 1-6 pm Fundraiser
18 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Fellowship Time 3-6 pm Encantada 3:30 pm Sci Fi Club	19 ABQ Phil Audi- onts 5 pm	20 Session 6:00 pm	21	22 10 am Stroke Club 10:00 am Historical Jesus Group on Zoom	23	24 10 am Jean Soderberg Memorial
25 9:30 am Worship Service 10:30 am Fellowship Time 3-6 pm Encantada	26 Presbytery Re- tirement Event 2 pm	27	28	29 10 am Stroke Club	30	31

September 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service and Communion</p> <p>10:30 am Fellowship Time 3-6 pm Encantada</p>	<p>2</p> <p>APO Rehearsal 7 pm</p> 	3	<p>4</p> <p>NM Peace Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Stroke Club 10 am Spiritual For- mation Zoom 10 am Choir 7 pm</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Girl Scouts 5:30 pm</p>	7
<p>8</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 am Fellowship Time 11 am Adult CE 3-6 pm Encantada</p>	<p>9</p> <p>APO Rehearsal 7 pm</p>	10	<p>11</p> <p>NM Peace Choir 6:30 pm</p> <p>Southwest Sniffers 6:30 pm</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Stroke Club 10 am Historical Jesus Zoom 10 am Choir 7 pm</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Sci Fi Society 7:30 pm</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Rogene Henderson Memorial Service 2 pm</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 am Fellowship Time 11 am Adult CE 3-6 pm Encantada</p>	<p>16</p> <p>APO Rehearsal 7 pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Session 6 pm</p>	<p>18</p> <p>NM Peace Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Stroke Club 10 am Spiritual For- mation Zoom 10 am Choir 7pm</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Girl Scouts 5:30 pm</p>	21
<p>22</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 am Emord Reception 3-6 pm Encantada</p>	<p>23</p> <p>APO Rehearsal 7 pm</p>	24	<p>25</p> <p>NM Peace Choir 6:30 pm</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Stroke Club 10 am Historical Jesus Zoom 10 am Choir 7 pm</p>	27	28
<p>29</p> <p>9:30 am Worship Service</p> <p>10:30 am Fellowship Time 11 am Adult CE 3-6 pm Encantada</p>	<p>30</p> <p>APO Rehearsal 7 pm</p>	