Above: Baptisms on All Saints' Sunday, November 5, 2023 · L. Hastings; Below: Raptors at the Leslie Science & Nature Center · P. Frolick

### Dear friends,

This week a friend suggested meeting up at the Leslie Science & Nature Center (discoverscienceandnature.org). What a treasure, and just five minutes from St. Andrew's! We were there to see the raptors. These amazing, beautiful birds have suffered permanent injuries that make them unable to survive in the wild. They are cared for in enclosures and serve as 'avian ambassadors,' trained to help educate people about their natural history and the challenges facing raptors today. You can visit these walk-up enclosures during daylight hours, a short, reasonable uphill walk from the parking lot. We saw a juvenile and an adult Red-tailed Hawk, a Bald Eagle, two Turkey Vultures, and a Great Horned Owl.

We were especially fortunate to spend about an hour talking with David Clipner, the Director of Education and Wildlife at the Leslie and the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. He has an amazing wealth of information about animal behavior and the ways these 'wild' birds interact with humans. We wanted to get his take on 'imprinting,' the theory that an animal in captivity may identify with an individual human as their closest kin or species. So, for instance, my cat, who has had very little experience of other cats for many years, may think of himself as 'human' and me as his older brother or parent.

Clipner has some healthy skepticism about this theory. He said that in some rare cases when a bird ends up at a place like the Leslie at a very young age, before they've really learned how to be an owl or an eagle or a vulture from their parents, they may learn how to be an owl or an eagle or a vulture from their human handlers. He's skeptical, however, of anthropomorphizing their behaviors much further, ascribing human emotions like love and affection to creatures with wholly different concerns than our own.

As I say, the raptors are awesome, and seeing their behavior through Clipner's eyes was fascinating, all of it a testament to the gift of creation and the miracle of human intelligence. And as we begin the season of Advent, it got me thinking about what this time of preparation and anticipation really is about. We're getting ready to celebrate the incarnation of God in the person of Jesus, God entering creation *on our terms*, in a way fully accessible to all of our God-given senses and experiences. In Jesus, we see as clearly as we can what God is like, what it means to be fully human, and how to live as a child of God. The Incarnation is an invitation to 'imprint' ourselves more completely in God, an invitation to learn how to be the people God is calling us to be.

Holding you all in gratitude and prayer during this busy season of preparation and anticipation.

Peace, Paul





**Annual Parish Meeting:**Sunday, January 28, 2024
in the Parish Hall after the 10am service

### **ANNUAL PARISH REPORTS**

If you would like to have a report included in the Annual Report, email it to Kate (communications@standrewsaa.org) by Monday, January 15, 2024.



at St. Andrew's

# **Sunday, December 17** 4:00 PM

Lessons and Carols

# **CHRISTMAS EVE**

**Sunday, December 24** 

4:00 PM

Family Eucharist + **Christmas Pageant** 

### 10:10 PM

Festival Choral Prelude

### 10:30 PM

**Festival Choral Eucharist** 

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

**Monday, December 25** 10:00 AM **Holy Eucharist** 

Services will be held as regularly scheduled December 24 - 31

# **Advent + Christmas Events**

### SJM Parish Carol Sing

Sunday, December 10

3:30-5:00pm | Chapel

All come and join in the singing and the fun! We'll be celebrating Advent and Christmas by singing songs and carols from diverse cultures. We'll sing together: call & response songs, Negro spirituals, folk songs and traditional songs, with drums, small percussion, guitar and piano. Everyone welcome, especially children and families. We'll have a fun, casual time together sharing precious heritage memories and learning new favorites. Join us!

### 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Lessons and Carols Sunday, December 17 4:00pm | Church

Our tradition of alternating lessons with hymns, voluntaries and carols for Christmas continues! All of St. Andrew's music ensembles are involved: the Adult, Junior and Cherub Choirs, and the St. Dunstan Junior and Adult Handbell Choirs.

### **Christmas Eve Candlelight Reception**

Sunday, December 24

5:30pm | Parish Hall

As part of our traditional Candlelight Reception following the 4:00 pm Christmas Eve service, will offer a meal of lasagna (regular, dairy free, meat free, gluten free), salad, bread, cookies, and beverages this year. Everyone is invited but please RSVP by Sunday, December 17 to Linda at slhastings@standrewsaa. org or call the church (734-663-0518) with your name, number of people, and type of lasagna for each.

### Winter Break Church School and Childcare

There is no Church School or childcare on Sunday, December 24 and 31.

### **Church Office to Close for the Holidays**

The Church Office will close and remote work will be paused from Friday, December 22, 2023 through Monday, January 1, 2024.



To make the church especially festive for the season, you are invited to contribute toward greens and flowers in memory of or in all special people in your life.

The deadline for dedications is Sunday, December 17.

# **Parish Briefs**

### **Annual Giving Update**

Many thanks to everyone who has made a pledge of support for next year - your generosity is inspiring!

The Stewardship Committee is hard at work following up with parishioners who have not pledged yet for 2024. If you are planning to make a pledge, please do so today by turning in a pledge card, emailing pledge@standrewsaa.org, or completing our online pledge card. This will save the Stewardship Committee time and effort during this busy season, and will help the Vestry develop a responsible budget to fund our mission and ministry in the year ahead. Thank you for your consideration.

P.S. Please know: the vestry, wardens, clergy, and staff are grateful for every pledge of support, no matter the size. And, if your financial situation is such that you cannot pledge this year, please know that we are grateful that you are here, grateful for the many ways you support St. Andrew's, and grateful for your prayers.

### MLK Day Drumming Celebration Monday, January 15

3:00 - 5:00PM | PARISH HALL

Celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by playing new rhythms and making new friends in a multi-generational drumming session! Parishioner Dr. George Watson will lead us in various styles of African drumming on different kinds of drums. All ages, all levels of experience (including none), and all kinds of talent welcome! You'll learn to play, collaborate, and improvise—and you'll be hearing in new ways afterwards. Come and join the fun!

### **SJM Book Discussion:**

What the Bible Really Says about Homosexuality by Daniel Helminiak

### Tuesday, January 16

6:30 - 8:00рм | Zоом

You might think that questions about the Bible and homosexuality have been settled, but they are still in active in our society, and different answers can have harmful or helpful effects. Our discussion will focus on understanding the passages in Scripture that have been used traditionally to condemn the LGBTQ community; we will seek ways to think differently about those passages and better advocate for LGBTQ in the Church and in society.

Sponsored by the Social Justice Committee and led by SJM member Ian McCaul, the discussion will be held on Tuesday, January 16, from 6:30-8pm via Zoom. Please contact Ian at <a href="mailto:ian.mccaul08@gmail.com">ian.mccaul08@gmail.com</a> to register for the Zoom link or if you have any questions.

### **Acolytes Needed**

We are in need of additional acolytes for both the 8:00 and 10:00 Sunday services. Anyone age 10 and older, youth or adult, is welcome. Normally acolytes serve about once a month. Scheduling is completely flexible. The duties are not difficult and training is provided.

If you or someone you know might be interested, please contact Scott Gerstenberger at (734) 678-0914 or wsg@umich.edu.



# **Finance**

## **Operating Revenue and Expense**

January 1 to October 31, 2023

			Over/Under +/(-)
	Actual	Budget	YTD Actual vs.
Income	Year-to-Date	Year-to-Date	YTS Budget
Plate Offerings	62,958	35,000	25,222
Pledge Payments	552,658	630,000	-77,342
Other Income	42,972	21,330	21,642
Designated Funds Transfer	60,000	60,000	0
Deficit Reduction Withdrawal	100,000	0	100,000
Prior Year Surplus	0	0	0
Total Income	818,588	746,330	69,522
Expenses			
Salaries and Benefits	592,401	587,061	5,340
Maintenance & Overhead	144,694	116,836	27,858
Office Expense	42,600	32,080	10,520
Stewardship & Miscellaneous	20,147	4,854	15,293
Church Programs	23,313	27,240	-3,927
Diocesan Pledge	83,213	83,210	3
Total Expenses	906,368	851,281	55,087
Net	-87,780	-104,951	14,435



# **Holiday Outreach**

### **Christmas Adopt-A-Family**

Gift Ingathering: Sunday, December 10 | ALL SERVICES

As we have for many years, St. Andrew's will again support the adult and child clients of the Ann Arbor Community Center this year through our Christmas Adopt-A-Family Program. To give a gift, do one of the following:

- You can **pick up a gift tag** which indicates the age and gender of a preschool or grade-school child, then buy and wrap an appropriate gift of your choice for the child attaching the gift tag provided.
- If you prefer, the Community Center is asking for donations of \$50 gift cards to Meijer, Walmart or Target for older children and adults. You can pick up a gift tag, then purchase a gift card and place it in a sealed envelope with a greeting if you like, and attach the tag to the envelope.
- You can also make a cash donation online or simply bring or mail a check to the church, payable to St. Andrew's with "Community Center Christmas" written on the memo line by Thursday, December 7.

Tags and written instructions for gifts and gift cards will be available for pickup in the lobby outside the chapel on Sunday, December 3. The ingathering of gifts and gift cards will be during services on Sunday, December 10.

### Hats, Mittens, Gloves, and Socks!

Collection Ends: Sunday, December 17

Help keep our Breakfast guests warm during the winter with donations of new, adult-sized hats, mittens, gloves, and socks. A basket for donations will be outside of the church office through Sunday, December 17. Thank you!

### **Winter Clothing Donations**

With cooler fall weather, the Breakfast Program is looking for warm clothing items for our guests. As you clean out closets and transition your wardrobes, please consider donating any items like blue jeans, sweat shirts, jackets, coats, and shoes that you no longer wear. While we appreciate all clothing donations, we are most in need of menswear at this time. Items can be dropped off at church during office hours or on Sundays. You can leave them on the bench in the hallway outside the church office and we will get them to our guests who will deeply appreciate them. Many thanks for your generosity.



### **Rice for Widows and Children**

Collection: Sunday, December 17

ALL SERVICES

Dear St. Andrew's,

Greetings! Again I thank God for his continued healing hands on me. Slowly, I am getting better although I cannot yet write or do minor things. I thank my family of St. Andrew's and St. Aidan's for your continued prayers for my recovery. Thank you very much and may God provide for you in your time of need.

It is Christmas now. Every year before my ill health, I had conducted Christmas SERVV/Sales of my African artifacts that sustained my mini-project of providing rice and beans to the widows, orphans, and some poor elderly of my village during Christmas. And every year, you have patronized me and chipped in to help the project. Over the years, I have seen the number of widows in this group increase geometrically. Most of them are young widows with little children of elementary age. With your help, I have sustained this effort each year.

This year, my inquiry informed me that the bags of beans and rice I bought last year have tripled in price but that does not stop the hungry mouths from yearning for food. You have been the reason these poor and indigent women and orphans have food on their tables at Christmas.

Thank you for supporting this project by chipping in. I no longer conduct the sales because of my ill health but the yearning for food at Christmas continues! Once more, can you please help to put "food" on their tables this Christmas? Please make a check out to St. Andrew's with "Rice and beans" in the memo line and send to church by Sunday, December 17th. God willing, I will send them the collected message for Christmas on Tuesday, 19th of December. May God bless you!

Sincerely, Stephen Uche, PhD

# **A Lasting Legacy**



# 2021 Renovations a Gift from Constance "Connie" Rinehart (1922-2023)

In 2021, St. Andrew's was blessed to receive a large, unrestricted gift from a very generous benefactor who wished to remain anonymous. The conditions of this gift were that it be used for capital improvements to the building and that their identity remain anonymous until their passing.

While we were saddened by Connie's passing in August, we are grateful to finally be able to publicly acknowledge her unceasing generosity to the church at a time when it was dearly needed. Connie's gift enabled us to make a number of improvements to Parish Hall wing of the building while the church was closed to in-person worship from March 2020 - August 2021 due to the pandemic. Prior to these upgrades, most of Parish Hall had not had any work done in 20+ years, and some areas had not been improved since it was originally built in 1948-49.

A brass plaque recognizing Connie's gift has been hung on the stairwell to the second floor of the Parish Hall.

A published author and poet, Connie was a professor and assistant dean at the (then) School of Library Science at UofM from 1967-88. A long-time parishioner, Connie was also active in the church's finance office as one of the Monday morning Counters. In lieu of flowers, she asked friends to remember the Memorial Fund at St. Andrew's, or to plant seeds for pollinators in whatever plot of ground they may be able to access.

# Connie Rinehart was the sole or primary donor for the following 2021-22 projects:

### **BUILDING-WIDE**

New burglar and fire alarm system

New coat racks

Sanitizing stations added

WiFi available throughout

### **PARISH HALL**

Cordless mini blinds installed in classrooms and offices

New tile flooring installed throughout wing

Plaster repair and interior painting of all levels, including closets, stairwells, doors, etc.

New area carpets in classrooms, offices, and Lounge

New carpet runners for hallways

New restroom across from Lounge

Nancy Heusel Theatre stage lighting upgrades

#### **LOUNGE**

New conference chairs

New sofas and armchairs for sitting area

### **CHAPEL**

Reupholstered 70 chairs

Renovations and additions to Chapel Organ

#### **SANCTUARY**

Purchase of A/V equipment for livestreaming services

Sound system / lighting upgrades New hardwood flooring in balcony Safety rail added to balcony

### **EXTERIOR**

Granite 'St. Andrew's Episcopal Church' sign for front lawn

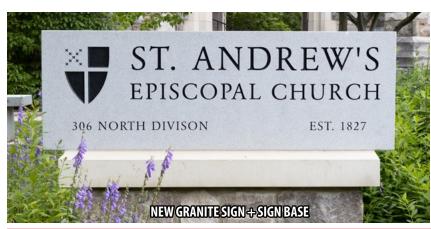
Sign base to match property wall















# **Church School**

Thank you to all the parents who regularly bring their children to Church School. We have a very regular group of children that we see each week. And we have a wonderful group of teachers and helpers helping your children each week to learn about God's love. We try to make it fun as well as educational.

To those who are more sporadic in attendance, we get it. Life is hard with little ones and you come when you can. And so many conflicting activities prevent us from being in church each week. But whenever you can come, we are always glad to see you.

This Fall we communicated with over fifty shut-in members through our Pen Pal Ministry; a postcard in the fall and a Christmas card coming up in December.

This fall we studied the Old Testament. In December we will be focusing on Advent and Christmas. Starting in January, we will have the New Testament, the Sermon on the Mount and Jesus' healing of people.

NO CHURCH SCHOOL on December 24 or 31. But we will have Church School January 7 (AAPS start the next day) and January 14 (AAPS is closed Monday for MLK Day). We just couldn't close for four Sundays in a row. So, yes, we will be back in full swing in the New Year.

Please, if you have any concerns or questions about our Church School Program, feel free to reach out to me. (734-665-8112, <a href="mailto:slhastings@standrewsaa.org">slhastings@standrewsaa.org</a>). I am open to suggestions too.

In faith, hope and love, **LINDA HASTINGS**Interim Director of Children's Ministries





# **Director's Chair**

It was very sad to learn of the passing of Nancy Heusel in November. Nancy was the long-time Director of Christian Education who created a wonderful theater ministry involving people of all ages. Her earliest plays were in the 1970's. Of course, there were Christmas pageants with all the usual characters, from tiny angels to Wise Men with Ph.D.'s. There were plays for mostly adult actors, such as Murder in the Cathedral and A Man for All Seasons. There were short plays taking the role of the sermon, such as Our Scottish ConneXion and The Selfish Giant. And beginning in 1993, every spring there was a Supper Theater experience, with supper served by the youth as a fundraiser, followed by a full-length play. All the spring plays after the first—Charlotte's Web—were musicals. It would be hard to estimate the total number of people involved in at least one of these theatrical experiences.

Nancy was a tower of faith, optimism, energy, and enthusiasm. If you weren't careful, you were going to end up in a dramatic presentation, as I did. I learned from Nancy the power and importance of story-telling, both to story tellers and story listeners. It is central to our faith. It was fitting that on her retirement, the theater in the Parish Hall was named for her. Before the performance of *Narnia* this past May, the new lighting system, made possible by a donation from Connie Rinehart, was dedicated and blessed by Fr. Wayne Rollins. The new dimensions the lighting has added to plays, beginning with *Narnia*, is a wonderful tribute to what Nancy created.

Our Scottish ConneXion, which was staged during the 10:00 am service on November 26, the Sunday in which we recognized St. Andrew, was created by Nancy, Svea Gray, and others. As one line in the play says, "this year marks the 196th anniversary of our beloved St. Andrew's." We are getting close to our bicentennial, and I am hoping that theater can play a role in the celebrations in 2027.

From *ConneXion* we segue right into the Christmas pageant. This year we are putting on a musical pageant that hasn't been done for a while at St. Andrew's, *'Twas the Year Before Christmas*. Rehearsals are underway with the children's choirs are already working on the music, but there are plenty of speaking roles for all ages!

There is an email list of all those who are interested in being part of the plays at St. Andrew's. If you are not already on it (or if you don't know), let me know at <a href="mailto:nrichert@comcast.net">nrichert@comcast.net</a>.

NORM RICHERT,

Theatre Ministries



# **Breakfast Updates**

There have been some exciting developments in the Breakfast Program this fall. The Washtenaw County Health Department issued an upgraded health license for our commercial kitchen in October. This new license allows us to expand our menu. We have started serving sausage, breakfast sandwiches, pancakes with fresh blueberries, French toast, and deli meats and cheese for sandwiches to go. Future plans include scrambled eggs, breakfast casseroles and breakfast burritos. We are even considering adding a homemade soup and chili station in the winter. It may not be traditional breakfast food, but it will be warm and comforting (and full of protein and fresh vegetables).

I have worked at the Breakfast almost every morning since starting as the Director on September 1, and I have enjoyed getting to know our guests. Many are regulars who have come every day for years, but we are seeing more and more new faces lately. One of my favorite tasks in the morning is to unlock the front door and greet each person by name as they walk inside. Guests often share their stories or talk about their challenges with me and the other volunteers as we walk around the dining room. Our many dedicated volunteers and I have been working together to create a peaceful and safe space for our guests to enjoy breakfast. And I believe we are making good progress. One of our regular guests recently told me, "You make us feel normal down here. It feels like a home."

Last week, one of our regular guests brought me a note he had written to express his gratitude for the Breakfast Program. His name is Michael. He is almost 70 years old, and he has been coming to eat with us almost every day since he came to town in February. I asked Michael if I could share his note in *The Network*, and he said he was honored to be able to tell others how the Breakfast Program helps him and so many others.

We have been working with other organizations in the community to fill our dining room donation rack with warm clothing as the weather gets colder. The Kiwanis Thrift Store has graciously offered to regularly donate shoes, boots, warm clothes, backpacks, and small rolling suitcases. The Ann Arbor Thrift Shop will be dropping off some donations before Thanksgiving, and we are looking forward to distributing hats, gloves and warm socks to our guests in December, thanks to the generous donations from members of the parish.

Some of you may have seen the plaque in the dining room honoring Breakfast volunteers who have passed away. Phil MacBride has volunteered to update that plaque for us. If anyone is aware of other volunteers whose names should be on it, please let me know.

If you haven't been down to the Breakfast before, please consider stopping in. Send me an email at <a href="mailto:breakfast@standrewsaa.org">breakfast@standrewsaa.org</a> to schedule a volunteer time, or just drop in to see what is happening. We would love to show you around.

SUE NISHI

Director of the

Breakfast at St. Andrew's

MY NAME IS Michael 1 The "Chef" From Californ
IA. ALTho I do have Medicade + medicaL, PART A+ PART B+ PART C. I (Temporarily) Fell Through The Cracks. ALL THANKS TO Somebody out Their, I NOW posses SeverALD ShirTS-A FINE KNIT hAT-WARM gloves +2 AWARM SCAFF FOR MY Neck+(2) pairs of PANTS THAT I gOT OFF The clothes rack IN The "Break FAST program" That They HAVE AT This Very Fine Church ... Very Fine I really wish that ALL Churches were like DIVLE AgaIN I SAY-THAM YOU - THANK YOU - THAN, you one + ALL .... The unprepared "chef Mike" From CALIFORNIA ... REALLY ... IT'S COLD, IT'S WINTER Time, BUT THANKS To the wonder Ful People IN This Chare I Feel you have my BACK to Jer ThANK Your I ear there daily, I need + like ThAT Food Served There I'm A "Chef" I Know The difference between good and Both the Food the Clothes.

# LATE FALL 2023

# Parish Life Highlights

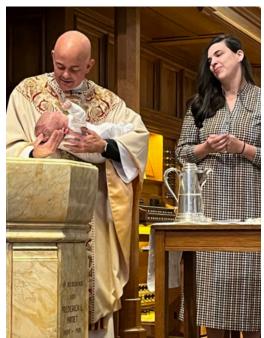
### **PHOTOS COURTESY OF:**

Linda Hastings, Betsy Henrichs, Ginger Kinney, Elaine Mouradian, Lucy Richert

Send your photos of parish life at St. Andrew's to communications@standrewsaa.org!





























Above: Children gather with Rev. Sally for dismissal on November 19, 2023 · N. Richert

# Weekly Events Get Involved!

### **Sundays**

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (C)
9:15 am Family Eucharist (Cpl)

9:45 am Church School

10:00 am Holy Eucharist (C / YouTube) 8:00 pm Compline (1st/3rd Sundays)

### Wednesdays

7:00 am Holy Eucharist (1st Wed.) /

Morning Prayer (Cpl)

4:30 pm Cherub Choir (CL) 4:30 pm Junior Handbell Choir (C)

5:15 pm Junior Choir (CL) 6:00 pm Evensong (Cpl) 6:30 pm Handbell Choir (C))

### **Thursdays**

10:00 am Bible Study (Zoom) 7:15 pm Adult Choir (CL)

### **Fridays**

12:15 pm Holy Eucharist (Cpl)7:00 pm Alcoholics Anonymous (PH)

(AC) Acolyte Room (Cpl) Chapel (C) Church (L) Lounge (PH) Parish Hall

# **Upcoming Events**

## Organ Recital: Deborah Friauff

February 4

**Ash Wednesday** 

February 14

### **December 2023**

### **Sunday, December 3**

9:45 am Children's Christmas Shop

7:00 pm Organ Recital:

David Kazimir (C)

8:00 pm Compline (C)

### **Tuesday, December 5**

3:00 pm Glacier Hills Service

### **Sunday, December 10**

Adopt-a-Family Gift Ingathering Blood Pressure Screenings

3:30 pm SJM Parish Carol Sing (Cpl)

### Monday, December 11

2:00 pm History/Memorials (AC)

### Sunday, December 17

Last Day for Hat/Glove Donations Christmas Flowers Due

2:00 pm PFLAG (L)

4:00 pm Lessons & Carols (C)

8:00 pm Compline (C)

### **Tuesday, December 19**

6:00 pm Finance (L/Zoom)

6:30 pm Vestry (L)

### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

### Sunday, December 24

### No Church School / Childcare

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (C) 9:15 am Family Eucharist (Cpl)

10:00 am Holy Eucharist 4:00 pm Family Eucharist +

Christmas Pageant (C)

10:10 pm Festival Choral Prelude (C) 10:30 pm Festival Choral Eucharist (C)

### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

### Monday, December 25

10:00 am Holy Eucharist (C)

### **NEW YEAR'S EVE**

### Sunday, December 31

No Church School / Childcare

### **CHURCH OFFICE CLOSURE**

The Church Office will be closed and remote work will be paused from Friday, December 22, 2023 through Monday, January 1, 2024.

## January 2024

Memorial Garden prices increase from \$500 to \$750 on January 1, 2024

### Tuesday, January 2

3:00 pm Glacier Hills Service

### **Sunday, January 7**

7:00 pm Organ Recital: Jeff Kibbie (C)

8:00 pm Compline (C)

### **Monday, January 8**

2:00 pm History/Memorials (AC)

### Saturday, January 13

7:00 pm Concert: Academy of Early Music (C)

### MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY Monday, January 15

Office Closed | Annual Reports Due

3:00 pm MLK Day Drumming Celebration (PH)

### Tuesday, January 16

6:00 pm Finance (L/Zoom)

6:30 pm SJM Book Discussion (Zoom)

### Sunday, January 21

2:00 pm PFLAG (L) 8:00 pm Compline (C)

### Tuesday, January 23

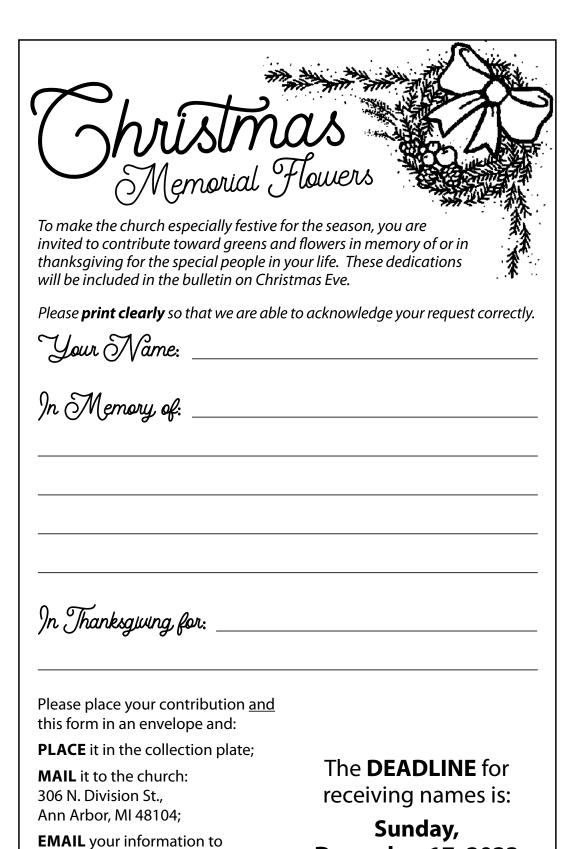
6:30 pm Vestry (L)

# ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Sunday January 29

**Sunday, January 28** 8:00 am Holy Eucharist (C)

9:15 am Family Eucharist (Cpl)9:45 am Church School

10:00 am Holy Eucharist (C) 11:30 am Annual Meeting (PH)



The Network | December 2023 / January 2024

communications@standrewsaa.org

**December 17, 2023**