

### WORSHIP UPDATE

**This Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, we again meet the angel Gabriel, this time with Mary.** Mary's story is captured beautifully throughout the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke, and each of us is invited to emulate her strength, courage, and faithfulness. In response to Gabriel's extraordinary promise, Mary responds, "let it be with me according to your word." In this season of waiting, how might we make ourselves open to God's work in and through us? And to what kingdom bearing might we commit through our own "Amen's." This and more, see you on Sunday.



### YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

The youth's final meeting for 2023 will be a Christmas party at Sedgefield UMC, 2830 Dorchester Place, Charlotte, NC 28209 on **December 10<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m.** If you need a ride, please reach out to Pastor Sherri or Pastor Sherry. **We'll leave at noon.** Youth meetings will resume in January.

### MISSION GIVING CARDS.

St. Andrew's is once again providing our church family the



opportunity to share **"Mission Giving Christmas cards"** to honor or remember someone special. Donations support outreach of our church and our partner



ministries. Artwork is from our very own Kenn Bullock and Patti Huss. Payment can be made through the usual channels, check, cash, or EFT. Please designate the ministry or ministries to be supported. Cards are available in the Narthex.

### HOLIDAY MISSION FOCUS IS

**LOAVES AND FISHES.** The last time we collected for *Loaves and Fishes*, we filled 12 squarrels. A challenge has been made to fill **20** this time between now and Christmas Eve. We've filled 4, **that leaves us 16 to go.** Thanks for your support. Here's a checklist of their greatest needs. Monetary gifts can also be made directly to *Loaves and Fishes* or to SAUMC (**designate Loaves and Fishes**).



#### Priority Needs

- Canned Meat: Tuna, Chicken, etc...
- Canned Fruit: low sugar or in juice
- Pasta - Canned or Dry Boxed
- Low Sodium Canned Vegetables
- Peanut Butter
- Diapers - especially larger sizes

**No Glass Please**



**CUMPLEAÑOS DE JESUS/ JESUS' BIRTHDAY!** Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, at 4:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center. This year, "Las Posadas" will be a different type of program. It will be presented as a great nativity drama! We will celebrate the "Birthday of Jesus", an historic day of the Lord. A group of roughly 40 Cross-Cultural community youth from the "Church of Change" ministry will be performing the drama of Christianity. It will be spoken **IN SPANISH (with English translation)** based on the Gospel, with music, readings, and the interaction of biblical characters in a contemporary way. All are invited to come and experience this joyous presentation. Be sure to arrive early to get a good seat. See you there.



### BE AN ANGEL TO A MONTCLAIRE STUDENT!

Montclair Elementary School is asking our community for additional Angel Tree sponsors this year, due to higher-than-anticipated student and family need. If you would like to be a Christmas Angel to a student by purchasing 2-3 gifts on their wish list, please visit [www.tinyurl.com/MESAngelTree](http://www.tinyurl.com/MESAngelTree) to sign up. **Act quickly, as gifts need to get to the school by December 15<sup>th</sup>.** Thanks for your help!



**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> 10:00 A.M.**

**Bring your favorite cookies to share.**

### MONTCLAIRE TEACHER LUNCH

Teaching is precious work! We're saying thank you to the staff at Montclair with a bag lunch on **Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>,** as they finish up the fall term. Here's how you can help out:



- Bake a batch of your favorite Christmas cookies.
- Donate money towards the purchase of Chick-Fil-A sandwiches.
- Donate needed lunch bag supplies.
- Help prepare, assemble, and deliver lunches.

Look for a sign up sheet in worship or visit: <https://tinyurl.com/MontclairBagLunch> to view needs and sign up.

Thanks for supporting our teachers!

### DECEMBER Birthdays

- 10 Noah Hernandez
- 11 Ginny Grisdale
- 11 Gail Thorne
- 12 Richard Council
- 13 Alan Aguirre
- 13 Libby Patton
- 16 Griselda Darvelia Ventura



**WORSHIP SERVICE  
December 10, 2023  
9:15 a.m. Worship Thru  
Prayer Service #29**

**10:00 a.m.  
Worship in the  
Family Life Center.**

**"Let It Be"  
Luke 1:26-28**

**11:11 a.m.  
Small Group Gatherings**

**12:30 p.m.  
Youth Ministry**



**REGULAR CHURCH  
OFFICE HOURS:  
Monday-Thursday  
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.  
Closed on Fridays.**

### GIVE ONLINE/ OFRENDAR EN LÍNEA.



**Our QR code will take you to SECURE GIVING/  
Nuestro código QR lo llevará a DONACIONES SEGURAS.**







## STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

We were asked to share some of the reasons that we give to the ministries and outreach of St. Andrew's UMC. As we thought about this question, we came to one key answer that has blessed our family for many years. Anne's parents began bringing her and her sister to St. Andrew's in the mid 1960's. We were married here in the 1970's, and we began to bring our children to St. Andrew's in the 1980's. We now see our grandson growing up within the loving arms of St. Andrew's family. We have been so blessed that St. Andrew's was and is an integral part of our family, sharing the message everyone needs to hear often, God loves us, Christ saves, and the Holy Spirit guides us.

So how does this translate into the reason we give to the work that St. Andrew's does in the community? It comes down to being the consistent light of love and grace in the ever-changing world that surrounds us. The world has changed a great deal since Anne first came to St. Andrew's almost 60 years ago and it has continued to change and will continue to change dramatically in the coming years. However, the same message, given with unconditional love for each other continues to be our foundational promise to this world in such a state of chaos. St. Andrew's is a light of hope in our community and the funds we provide help us to shine brightly as a beacon for Christ. It was what attracted us to make a home for our family here, it is what attracted our children to seek out either St. Andrew's or a church family like St. Andrews in which to serve and is where our grandson is loved and mentored in the ways of Christ. Of the 10 people who ask us what we did "right" when raising the boys, our answer is always the same, we took them to church, perhaps we should add we took them to St. Andrew's.

There is so much changing in the world and how we may feel about these changes varies quite a bit, but what we do through **THIS** body of Christ to show a lost world the love and grace that truly matters. In the end, will make all the difference in this world and the next, is the most important reason that we give. We need to continue to adapt our approach and efforts to our community to reach those seeking Christ, but the message and love is and will remain the same as when

St. Andrew's opened its doors the that first Easter Sunday many years ago. So, whether you have been here for decades like us or this is your first Sunday, it is the consistency of purpose that we support with our time, prayers, witness, talents, and treasure, and we encourage you to joining with us spreading our message that God loves us, Christ saves us, and the Holy Spirit guides us. God bless you all.

In Christ,  
Anne and David Lisk

## THE LONGEST



**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup>, AT 11:00 A.M. OR 6:30 P.M.** For many of us, the holidays can be hard. Joy can seem elusive, and loss can loom large at this time of year. There is hope. God hears our cries and is close to the brokenhearted. On the longest night of the year, join us at 11:00 a.m. or at 6:30 p.m. for a service of prayer, word, and music; to offer space for the burdens we carry, and to be reminded that our Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us. Come as one who grieves, or come as a friend to one who grieves. All are welcome.



**HELP NEEDED.** If you would like to help put luminaries together in preparation for Christmas Eve service or if you can help place the luminaires outside

on **Christmas Eve at 6:15 p.m.**, please contact Sherry Jackson at:

[childrensministry@standrewsumc.com](mailto:childrensministry@standrewsumc.com)



## CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY, DEC. 24<sup>TH</sup> 10:00 A.M.

"Story for all God's Children."

## 7:00 P.M.

Candlelight and Communion Service.

**THANK YOU** so much for all of the donations and help for the Winter Festival. We had a great time with a great crowd of people! Santa came by and Frosty was present! Thank you for making it a great time for all who attended.



## YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

As we move towards the close of this year, click here [standrewsumc.com/uploads/1/2/3/2/12323833/2023\\_year-end\\_giving-brochure.pdf](http://standrewsumc.com/uploads/1/2/3/2/12323833/2023_year-end_giving-brochure.pdf) for more information about the timing and types of year-end financial gifts that can be made. As the writer of Deuteronomy tells us, "all must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God. (Deut. 16:17). We continue to give thanks to those who have been faithful in their commitments so that our church might honor ours. It is our hope that we can end this year and begin next year in a place of financial health.



## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER 2<sup>ND</sup>, WINTER FESTIVAL.



## PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, MEAL PACKING EVENT



On Sunday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> we packaged 4,320 meals for people in need in third world countries, who might otherwise not have food. 34 different youth, pastors, and parents, were involved at one point or another. We were blessed with twice as many people as expected, who came to help out. Thank you.

~Brad Kirksey, Youth Ministry Leader

