



weekly CHATTER

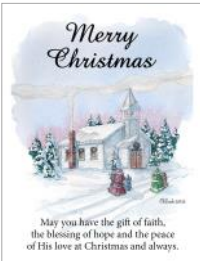
December 17, 2023

10:00 a.m. Worship Service in the Sanctuary and Online

1901 Archdale Dr., Charlotte, NC 28210 www.standrewsumc.com 704-553-1327

WORSHIP UPDATE

This Sunday, December 17th, we will gather for Cookies, Cocoa, and More! That **MORE** includes sharing in food and fellowship (don't forget to bring your favorite Christmas cookies. Yep, we'll honor the holiday tradition of starting the day with dessert), song, (bring your best singing voice and listening ear as we engage songs of the season) and with the story of Joseph. Another of our beloved nativity figures, Joseph's story in scripture is brief, but its impact is eternal. In this season of Advent, how might we hear God's voice and experience God's presence in new ways which bring transformation? This and more, see you on Sunday!



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. To date, we've filled 10, **that leaves us 10 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



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH 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 19th**, 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!

THE LONGEST NIGHT



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21ST, 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 IS 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 email Sherry Jackson at: childrensministry@standrewsumc.com



CHRISTMAS EVE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

10:00 A.M.

"A Story for All God's Children."

7:00 P.M.

Jazz Carols, Candlelight and Communion Service.

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](https://www.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.

DECEMBER Birthdays

- 18 Doris Campbell
- 19 Russ Thorne
- 21 Larry Carella
- 22 Evelyn Farrar
- 22 Suzette Grist
- 22 Isac Reyes

89+ BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS.

Please shower **Doris Campbell** (Monday, December 18th) with cards on her special day. **Cards may be sent to: Doris Campbell** 104 Clendenen Court Cary, NC 27513



WORSHIP SERVICE December 17, 2023

9:15 a.m. Worship Thru Prayer Service #29

10:00 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary.

"Acting on the Unbelievable" Matthew 1:18-24

11:11 a.m. Small Group Gatherings



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

GIVE ONLINE/ OFRENDAR EN LINEA.



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

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS FROM SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10TH.

CUMPLEANOS DE JESUS.

"Papel Picado" is a traditional Mexican decorative craft that is made by cutting elaborate designs into sheets of tissue paper. It is a "perforated" paper that makes up popular art from the former colonies of Spain that has been incorporated into the culture of many other Latin countries since the 19th century. It represents the color and joy that the people project into the air in recognition of the people who have left the earthly world.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY AT SEDGEFIELD UMC.

