



DECEMBER 2025

Dear Friends,

December in America counsels consumption and revelry. Advent in the church counsels self-emptying and anticipation. December in America viewed through the lens of our faith seems off kilter and even broken. Our consumption, promoted by marketers and politicians, looks like a misappropriate response to the God-planted desire in our hearts to create space and to wait. Our revelry looks like misappropriated desire to feast at the wedding banquet hall.

What do we see in our world today? We see a marketing push from November first until the beginning of January. You will find what you seek by acquiring an object. The one with the most acquisitions, or most valuable findings, that one wins.

What do we see? We see gluttony that begins at Thanksgiving. Our revelry celebrates a false completion: feast until you can't stand up while the little match-girl stands at the window invisible. Revel in glamour, drink, extroversion, paste on a smile, dress in red with sparkles, celebrate fulfillment.

In our consuming and revelry, we are mistaking the finger pointing at the moon for the moon.

What is wrong with this picture? All our acquisitions, all our frantic consuming to meet holiday expectations, even carefully searched for items of beauty and meaning, all our acquisitions are dross. They do not provide true food for our God planted hungers. Our revelry can mistakenly communicate that the revelation of God, the consummation of God's presence, has already been fully manifested. No wonder the warm glow of alcohol diffuses into a morning headache. No wonder many feel empty, some even betrayed by the spiritual opiate that much "Christmastime" revelry brings.

Anyone can tell you, Casey especially, how much I love preparing for Christmas. I love all the fun crafts. I love the decoration of the house. I love baking until I drop. I love the search for the perfect present. I love receiving presents. I'm like a kid in a candy store. I can't get enough. I love all the giving and receiving as a symbol of showing love. Celebrating and continuing family traditions reinforces my sense of who I am and where I come from.

Consumption and Revelry – they may not be bad in themselves. December buying and feasting may have many good and Godly points to recommend them. Unfortunately, many have come to see and experience consumption and revelry as the whole of "Christmas". When we mistake the finger for the moon, celebration,

consumption and revelry, too easily turn us into John the Baptist's brood of vipers.

The antidote? If it is God's incarnation of love that has the power to save, let us focus on that! Instead of placating our desires to feast in the courts of the Lord by reveling as if those courts have been fully revealed, let us gather together for parties of anticipation. Let us make a not-yet aspect to our feasts – a waiting, a making a place, a wondering what might be called for from us in order to move toward the ultimate feast.

God loves you just as you are, today. So start there. Start with you and your family's Advent traditions. Ask how they can support your seeking for the incarnate presence of God. Ask how they can reinforce your partnering with others to work toward that final feasting. Are there ways you can make shifts in your acquisitiveness and December consumption so that your purchases aid in preparing a space? In self-emptying? Are there ways you can make shifts in your family and social commitments so they more closely reflect the anticipation of Advent rather than the consumption of Eden?

I have one thing, but only ONE thing, to add to your "Christmastime" burden. Gather your family and pray with your calendars and with your Advent and Christmas traditions. Wonder with one another how you might shift or transform those things you have already been doing and focusing on, so that places of consumption become miracles of self-emptying and places of revelry and feasting reflect the anticipation of a joy yet to be revealed.

**The Rev. Mary Caucutt, Supply
St. Andrew's in the Pines**



Taking Me Higher by Andrea Paulsen

GETTING TO KNOW: KENDRA CROSS



How long have you been attending St. Andrew's?

Kendra woke up one cold Sunday morning in January 2024 and thought about how many lovely folks she knows that attend St. Andrews, thus decided that day to start attending.

Short Bio: Kendra Cross loves living in Pinedale where she enjoys being near nature and her extended family. She grew up in Rock Springs a granddaughter of plumbers, businesswomen and coal miners. She has taken up the family construction trade in her spare time and has been renovating an old home in Pinedale. She appreciates living in Sublette county, enjoying our gorgeous public lands with her two dogs.

Favorite Prayer to meditate on is the

Peace Prayer of St Francis of Assisi: *Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.*

Favorite Bible Verse: Jeremiah 29:11 - *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*

Favorite aspect of worshipping at St. Andrew's: the music. Kendra finds the magic of spiritual contemplation and celebration come to life through the listening, singing and sharing of song. Her favorite memories as a child include hearing her grandmother sing in church. The hymns give such comfort in their poetry and old familiar melodies. Music can move a heart and stir a soul in both the music maker and in the listener. She very much enjoys singing with the St. Andrews choir.

ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES VESTRY

Name	Office	Phone	Email	Term Ends
Julie Belton	Clerk	(307) 231-1856	real125c@outlook.com	2026
Sandy Cenac		(985) 860-8037	SandyCenac@gmail.com	2026
Kelley Pearson		(307) 231-2394	okelleypearson@gmail.com	2026
Erin Hastey		(608) 228-897	erinhastey@gmail.co	2027
Sukey Hohl	Senior Warden	(307) 231-3030	sukeybook@gmail.com	2027
Sarah Hixson	Junior Warden	(307) 231-9666	sarahm15@wyoming.com	2028
Joni Mack	Treasurer	(307) 690-0669	joni@ravenscrowne.com	

LOVE THY NEIGHBOR GRANT: St. Andrew's has been awarded \$5,000 from the Diocesan Foundation to distribute immediately. SAFV will receive \$500 (we will match this from the rummage sale proceeds;) the Food Basket's emergency box program will receive \$1,000; Rendezvous Pointe's homemaker in-home services will receive \$500; the school lunch arrears payment program will receive \$500; childcare past due payments \$500; and utility/rent assistance will have a \$2,000 fund. Many thanks to the Foundation for the Episcopal Church in Wyoming for this generous gift!

PRAYER CHAIN STARTING: Lauren McKeever has organized a prayer chain. If you know of a person in need of prayer, or would like prayers yourself, please send the first name and last name initials (or just initials) to standrewsprayerchain@proton.me. This is a secure, private email just for the prayer chain. Requests for prayers will be forwarded to the St. Andrew's email list. If you don't wish to receive these emails, please respond to any that you receive, letting us know your preference. We don't need to know the reason for the request, we just need to pray for the person.

PROGRESS ON THE RECTORY REMODEL: Josh Beck with Peak Building Performance has completed the exterior work, the electrical upgrade and now the flooring is complete. Both bathrooms have been completely gutted and replaced with new fixtures, tile and mirrors. Lighting is installed and most of the painting is done inside. After the Thanksgiving holiday, he will finish the interior paint and start installing cabinets, new sink and countertops in the kitchen. When all is finished, he will have it professionally cleaned and then new cellular shades will go in. New outdoor lighting will be done, too. It should all be done by the New Year. It's a cause for celebration and a big Hallelujah! A big thank you to the Foundation for the Episcopal Church in Wyoming for making this possible,

along with our Building Fund, to which many members have contributed over the years.

CHOIR DURING ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS EVE: Everyone who likes to sing is welcome to join our choir, especially during this festive season. Joni sends out the Sunday music during the week, and we have changed our rehearsals to Sunday at 9:30 am only. There will not be any complicated choir music for the Advent season, as several of you are singing with the Community Choir and that's always challenging!

1st Sunday in Advent is November 30; Rev Mary Caucutt is here.

2nd Sunday in Advent Dec. 7; Lessons and Carols with communion; Mary is still here! Kendra and Jocelyn are singing a duet.

3rd Sunday in Advent Dec. 14: Ante-Communion; Kendra and Jocelyn are singing a different duet

4th Sunday in Advent Dec. 21: Ante-Communion again; Jen Wilson is singing a solo (That night is the Blue Christmas Service of Solace; all are welcome 6 pm. Lovely contemplative prayer service with Taize songs.)

Christmas Eve: 2 pm Heritage Home (on the hill for the nursing home)

3:30 pm Sublette Center (in the Heritage Room as you enter the south doors)

7 pm Evening Prayer at St. Andrew's, similar to what we did last year.

ANNUAL MEETING: The 2026 Annual Meeting will take place on January 18th after the service. This is a reminder that traditionally elections for Vestry do not take place during a time of transition.

**A HEART-FELT THANK YOU TO
THE BICKERING
BROTHERS
FOR PROVIDING
ST. ANDREW'S WITH FREE
LAWN CARE AND DOING
SUCH AN EXCEPTIONAL JOB.**

December ROTA

	7-Dec	14-Dec	21-Dec	21-Dec	24-Dec	28-Dec
Type of Service	Lessons & Carols Advent 2 10:00 AM	Ante Communion Advent 3 10:00 AM	Ante-communion Advent 4 10:00 AM	Service of Salace Blue Christmas 6:00 PM	Christmas Eve 7:00 PM	Ante Communion 10:00 AM
Altar	Jocelyn Moore	Mary Lankford	Jen Wilson	Jen Wilson	Kendra Cross	Joni Mack
Worship Leader	Rev. Mary Caucutt	Sukey Hohl	Sarah Hixson	Madeleine Murdock	Madeleine Murdock	Erin Hastey
Chalice	Sukey Hohl	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Greeter/Plate	Sukey Hohl	Sandy Cenac	Jen Wilson	Julie Belton	Julie Belton	Sukey Hohl
Lector	Susan Brennan	Sandy Cenac	Jocelyn Moore	Erin Hastey Julie Belton	Julie Belton	Sukey Hohl
Coffee Hour	Sukey Hohl	Sandy Cenac	Jen Wilson			Sukey Hohl
Advent Wreath	Jocelyn Moore Susan Brennan	Mary Lankford Dave Lankford		Erin Hastey Julie Belton	Madeleine Murdock Scott Murdock	

If you are unable to serve or fulfill the duties assigned, please make arrangements to switch dates or ask someone to serve. For assistance, please call Julie Belton at 307) 231-1856 to help.



St. Andrew's in the Pines Vestry Minutes
October 13, 2025

1. **Opening Prayer**
2. **Call to Order:** 5:36 pm. Present: Sukey Hohl, Senior Warden, Joni Mack, Treasurer, Erin Hastey and Kelley Pearson via Zoom.
3. **September and Special Meeting Minutes:** Kelley moved to have the September Minutes and Special Meeting minutes accepted as presented, Erin seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
4. **Buildings Update:** Joni reported that the Rectory exterior painting is completed and the interior primer is also done. Everything looks great. We have received the Diocesan Building Inspection Report. Sarah, Junior Warden, is reviewing it and will provide a task list at the November meeting. There is nothing serious in the report, just upkeep.
5. **Treasurer's Report/Grants/Fundraising:** Our finances remain steady. Joni has separated out the finances of the Rectory renovation to keep our church finances clear. We currently have \$77,060 in savings. Sukey suggested that we move the Memorial savings to general savings, since this money was originally set aside for a columbarium, which is not practical for our location. We will pay for any memorial plaques or other memorial expenses out of operating funds. Erin moved to move the Memorial Fund to savings, Kelley seconded, and motion passed unanimously. Kelley moved to accept the Treasurer's Report, Erin seconded, The motion passed unanimously.
6. **Stewardship.** Joni will be sending out pledge packets this week. Erin will speak on Stewardship November. 9, Madeleine on November 16, and Sarah on November 23. We will designate a committee to respond to ministry pledges at the next Vestry meeting.
7. **Transition/Search.** Jessica Reynolds, who was the Diocesan Transition Officer, is no longer with the Diocese and Bishop Ousley is working directly with the churches currently in transition. We were able to give him drafts of our profile, utilizing the Gretchen Yost photos, and our OTM essays during his recent visit and he promised to get back to us right after Convention.
8. **Preparation/Refresh:** Progress is being made with the pew cards, website refresh, and services at the Sublette Center. Sukey suggested we hire Gretchen Yost again to do face shots of everyone for a new photo directory and everyone agreed. She will contact Gretchen.
9. **Policy/Procedure Manual:** It was agreed to place this project on hold till the new year since our plates are already full. Sukey is keeping a list of possible subjects.
10. **Review**
 - A. **After Action:** Everyone agreed this had been a very valuable exercise.
 - B. **Audit:** Audit policies and instructions for future committees would be extremely useful.
 - C. **Bishop Visit:** Couldn't have gone better!
 - D. **Convention:** Great convention! Bishop Hunn was a great keynote speaker. Three vestry members attended.
11. **Miscellaneous**
 - A. **Upcoming Events:** Sukey referred everyone to the important dates list in the October newsletter.
 - B. **Bylaws:** It was agreed to keep to the old ones since so much change is happening right now at the Diocesan level.
 - C. Sukey mentioned that she will be out of the country on November 10 and will poll everyone to see if changing the November Vestry Meeting could take place on November 3rd instead.

10 Closing Prayer

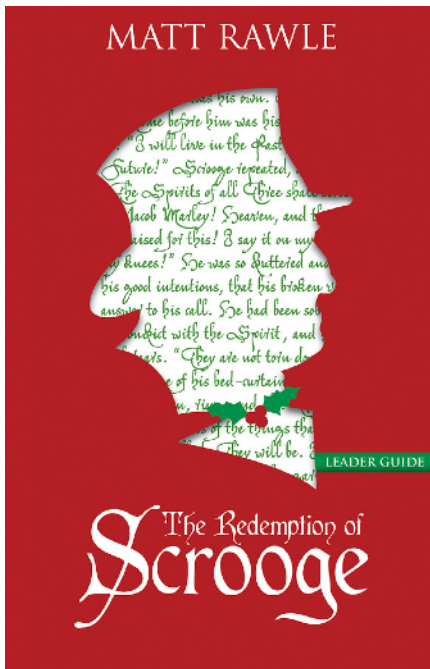
Treasurer's Report for December newsletter**Joni Mack, Treasurer**

If you would like to sit down and have a detailed explanation of our finances, please be in touch. I'm glad to do that! The renovation of the rectory continues, with the electrical work, the exterior, and interior painting mostly done. The tile in the bathrooms and kitchen floor are done, and Josh is starting to lay the bedroom flooring.

Thank you, everyone for your generous support of St. Andrew's, especially during this time of transition.

Current Assets	As of October 31, 2025
Operating fund balance	4,240.42
Memorial fund retired 10.15.25; added to savings	0
Savings	79,128.75
Building fund	37,746.54
Priest Discretionary	528.31
Suicide Prevention Fund	8,047.77
Dedicated Funds Checking Account	40,680.29
ECW Checking Account	883.49
Total Current Assets	171,255.57
CD – 9 month (matures 4.23.26)	10,762.64
CD – 9 month (FirstWestern) matures 6.5.26	15,980.09
Total CDs and Investments	26,742.73
Dedicated Funds	
Mental Health Grant	36,025.58
Outreach Fund	3,668.20
Summer Lunch	10,213.01
Christian Education	885.81
Total Dedicated Funds	50,792.60
Total Revenue YTD October 2025 (pledge, open offering, interest)	89,852.30
Total Expenses YTD October 2025	-53,735.79
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	36,116.51

Advent Coffee Hour Book Discussion



Go from “Bah, Humbug!” to a Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas. Ebenezer Scrooge is a man in dire need of a second chance. Is redemption possible for such a greedy, dark, and sad character? The Redemption of Scrooge, our coffee hour book study for this Advent, shows us how the teachings of Jesus can be found in Dickens’ Christmas classic. From the ghosts of Christmas past, to the Life of the present, and the resurrection of Christmas future, this Advent study will “bless us every one” and reinvigorate our spiritual journeys as we look at this familiar story through the lens of faith. Join us at coffee hour every Sunday this Advent for treats and discussion.

You can pick up a copy of the book in the narthex. Prior reading is always encouraged, but never required! Each session includes a short video segment that brings us all up to speed on the key points from that week's chapter. All ages welcome.

RECIPE

JOCELYN'S TROPICAL SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

1. **GREASE** baking dish (10" x 10" x 2" or 9" x 13" or similar size)
2. **PREHEAT** oven to 350 degrees
3. **MIX** below ingredients – if it has a few lumpy spots, that's OK
 - 1 cup crushed pineapple (drained)
 - 1 ½ cups coconut
 - 3 cups mashed /cooked sweet potato
 - 1 cup white sugar
 - 2 eggs
 - 1 tsp vanilla
 - 1/3 cup milk
 - ½ cup melted butter
4. **POUR** into greased baking dish
5. **TOPPING** (this is sweet without it... but what the heck)
 - 1/3 cup flour
 - 1 cup brown sugar
 - 1/3 cup butter (semi-melted)
 - 1 cup pecans (if desired)
6. **MIX** with a fork then add on top of potato mixture
7. **BAKE** for 30 to 40 minutes depending on your oven

**ST. ANDREW'S IN THE PINES
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
PO Box 847
PINEDALE, WY 82941**

**PLACE
STAMP
HERE**

Quick Reference Advent/Christmas Season Calendar

November 29	1 pm	Greening of the Church
December 6	5 pm	Christmas Party
December 7	10 am	Lessons and Carols
		Head shots for new directory
December 10	2 pm	Sublette Center Christmas Tea
December 13	3 pm	Pinedale Community Choir Concert
December 21	10 am	Service of Solace
December 24	2:20 pm	Heritage Home Christmas Eve Service
	3:30 pm	Sublette Center Christmas Eve Service
	7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Christmas Eve Service



December Birthdays

Emma Liske	12/1
Matt Cenac	12/3
Canon Cenac	12/14
Dave Lankford	12/15
Susan Brennan	12/20
Trey Wilkinson	12/20
Annie Ruth Bobo	12/23
Dewitt Morris	12/26
Hailey Liske	12/30