

# THE FISHERMAN

A publication of St. Andrew By-The-Sea United Methodist Church

*And He said to them, 'Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.'* MATTHEW 4:19

Well, Merry Christmas, Merry Epiphany, and Merry King-domtide! Our Advent journeys have ended but now our Christmas journeys 'repeating the sounding joy' have just begun, and we will be traveling through these seasons of the church year in January and February.

Sunday, January 4 is Epiphany Sunday - we welcome the Wise Men to the manger scene after their long journey, and we, along with them, offer our gifts to the Christ-child and offer ourselves to his service.

Beginning this Sunday, and all of February, we will explore the biblical prophets with our series **Prophet or Non-Prophet?** (*What Kind of Organization Are We?*). Starting with Isaiah and going all the way through Malachi, we'll delve into words from these God-inspired spokespeople that comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable. We will end the service with Communion and our annual Wesley Covenant Prayer (see below).

Be sure to read on for more opportunities to welcome, worship, serve, and grow together as part of St. Andrew in this new year. I'll leave you to ponder the prayer from John Wesley that we will all pray together on the first Sunday of 2026.

Grace and peace,



**I AM NO LONGER MY OWN, BUT THINE**  
 PUT ME TO WHAT THOU WILT, RANK ME WITH WHOM THOU WILT.  
**PUT ME TO DOING, PUT ME TO SUFFERING.**  
 LET ME BE EMPLOYED FOR THEE OR LAID ASIDE FOR THEE.  
 LET ME HAVE ALL THINGS, LET ME HAVE NOTHING.  
**I FREELY AND HEARTILY YIELD ALL THINGS**  
**TO THY PLEASURE AND DISPOSAL.**  
 AND NOW, O GLORIOUS AND BLESSED GOD,  
**FATHER, SON, AND HOLY SPIRIT,**  
**THOU ART MINE AND I AM THINE.**

**SO BE IT.**

AND THE COVENANT WHICH I HAVE MADE ON EARTH,  
**LET IT BE RATIFIED IN HEAVEN.**  
**AMEN.**



Weekly Support Group

The road to recovering from loss is not meant to be walked alone. Come find hope and healing.

Wednesdays, February 4-April 29

1:00-3:00 pm, in-person // Celebration Center

Participants Workbook \$20

GriefShare is a 13-week support group program that helps people grieving the death of a loved one-spouse, parent, child, pet, any loss. The program is nondenominational that includes practical information from the Christian Bible. Each weekly session consists of a video seminar with experts, followed by a support group discussion and personal reflection. Participants can join at any time, and the curriculum is designed to help individuals understand their grief, find comfort, and rebuild their lives.

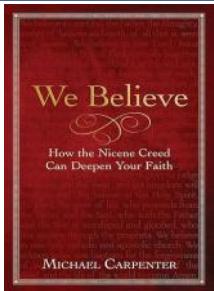
- ◆ Facilitator: Brenda Armstrong, trained GriefShare Leader and Stephens Ministry Leader
- ◆ Register online at [find.griefshare.org/find](http://find.griefshare.org/find)
- ◆ For questions, please consult [griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org) or contact Brenda at [patsmom02@gmail.com](mailto:patsmom02@gmail.com)



Explore the words of the prophets that comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable

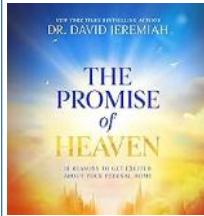
## Short-term Study Options Beginning in Early January 2026

**We Believe: How the Nicene Creed Can Deepen Your Faith**  
Seekers Class  
**Sundays, Jan. 4 - Feb. 15**  
**10:15 - 11:00 am**  
**Room C111, Celebration Center**



Discover how the ancient Nicene Creed can transform your spiritual journey in Michael Carpenter's empowering book, *We Believe: How the Nicene Creed Can Deepen Your Faith*. Personal anecdotes and practical insights guide you to a profound connection with God. Dive into six chapters, covering the Nicene Creed sequentially, that unpack the essence of it, enriching reader's faith and deepening their understanding of Christian beliefs.

For more, contact Kerry at [christedhhiumc@gmail.com](mailto:christedhhiumc@gmail.com)

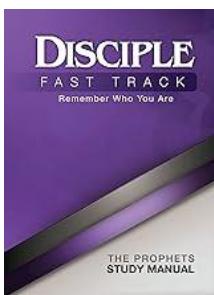


**Joy Class**  
**Sundays, beginning Jan. 11**  
**10:15 - 11:00 am Hybrid**  
**Admin Bldg. Conf. Room**

Explore what the Bible really says about heaven. With biblical truth and powerful real-life stories, this book by Dr. David Jeremiah will stir your longing for eternity and give you strength for whatever you're facing today. When your heart is set on heaven, life starts to look different. Worry loses its grip. Pain doesn't feel so final. Joy starts to return, even in the middle of hard days. And you begin to live with quiet confidence, knowing that something far better is ahead.

For more information and Zoom link, contact Wes Warren at [wwarren23@aol.com](mailto:wwarren23@aol.com)

**Interested?**  
**Disciple Fast Track 3**  
**Remember Who You Are:**  
**The Prophets**  
**12 weeks for 1 hour**  
**Dates & Times TBD by group**



We are trying to gage interest in offering this 12-week study immersing readers in the Old Testament Major and Minor Prophets (except Daniel). The prophets are continually calling hearers and readers back to their God and to a sense of who they are as a people "set apart." Designed to establish the historical context in which the prophets spoke for God, daily reading assignments draw also on the books of Deuteronomy through Chronicles. Readers will encounter "The Word of the Lord," with comments on Scripture and amplification of meaning. Less reading than Disciple 1.

If you are interested, contact Kerry at [christedhhiumc@gmail.com](mailto:christedhhiumc@gmail.com)



## NEW! Games Fellowship Group

**Friday, January 9 • 6-8 pm • Celebration Center**

Join us for a fun evening filled with parlor games, board games, and cards. All ages welcome, perfect for a family night out; bring a savory snack to share, beverages provided; no RSVP required. Contact: Lorena Best at [bestlorenadream@gmail.com](mailto:bestlorenadream@gmail.com) or 843.441.1378



## NEEDED! Dining Out Coordinator

The *Dining Out* drop-in group is always well attended and a lot of fun, but it needs someone to take on the coordinator role. These gatherings give people a chance to connect outside of church. Each month, the coordinator picks a local restaurant, sets the date and time (avoiding conflicts with church events), sends details to an ever-growing email list, and makes the reservation.

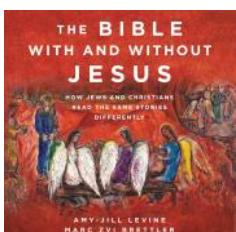
If you'd like to help coordinate, or to join the group, contact Kerry at [christedhhiumc@gmail.com](mailto:christedhhiumc@gmail.com).

## The Bible With and Without Jesus

**Men's Devotional Group**

**Thursdays, Jan. 8-Feb. 15**

**8:00-9:00 am via Zoom**



Esteemed Bible scholars and teachers Amy-Jill Levine and Marc Z. Brettler take readers on a guided tour of the most popular Hebrew Bible passages quoted in the New Testament to show what the texts meant in their original contexts and then how Jews and Christians, over time, understood those same texts. Passages include the creation of the world, the role of Adam and Eve, the Suffering Servant Isaiah, the book of Jonah, and Psalm 22, whose words, 'My God, my God, why have you forsaken me,' Jesus quotes as he dies on the cross. Contact Dave Peterson at [dvdptrsn@gmail.com](mailto:dvdptrsn@gmail.com) for the zoom link.



## St. Andrew Soup Kitchen Serving Our South Island Neighbors

### Our Mission and Impact

The St. Andrew By-The-Sea Soup Kitchen is dedicated to providing food, fellowship, and financial stability for our South Island neighbors. Since November 2010, we have had the privilege of distributing God's gracious gifts of time, talent, and financial generosity two days a week, every week. Today, over 60 volunteers from across the island contribute their energy, making them the heroes of the St. Andrew By-The-Sea Soup Kitchen. Their spirited commitment is reflected in the grateful smiles of our guests.

Our guests benefit from a range of services including food, lunches, clothing, hygiene products, diapers, bikes, and English lessons. In 2025, 89% of our expenditures were directly allocated to meeting the needs of guest families. By providing these essentials, we support our guests' financial stability, enabling them to reallocate their saved dollars toward other important family responsibilities such as transportation and housing.

### A Year in Review

As the St. Andrew By-The-Sea Soup Kitchen begins its 16th year, we reflect on the accomplishments of 2025.

**Groceries:** We provided groceries for 14,000 people. Our Harvest Table distributed groceries with a retail value of \$4,000 per week, totaling over \$200,000 worth of food in 2025. For the 50 households we serve, each saves over \$4,000 on food, which can be allocated to other necessities. Our key partners, Second Helpings and Deep Well, supply over 80% of the food for our Harvest Table. We are deeply grateful for their generosity and support.

**Lunches:** In 2025, we prepared over 8,800 lunches—bagged lunches on Tuesdays and hot, sit-down lunches on Fridays. St. Andrew By-The-Sea Soup Kitchen is the only food pantry on Hilton Head serving lunches, expertly prepared by our volunteer chefs. The cost per nutritious lunch was \$1.90.

**Clothing:** Each week, we distribute over 200 pieces of clothing for women, men, and children, amounting to more than 10,000 clothing items annually. Valued at approximately \$3 each, this represents over \$30,000 in clothing provided to our guest families. Clothing is supplied by St. Francis Thrift, Church Mouse, and individual donations, making it our second most important service after food distribution.

**Additional Services:** We supply diapers for around 15 registered children, totaling \$9,000 per year; hygiene products such as laundry detergent, shampoo, toothpaste, and soap valued at \$3,000 per year; 50 donated bicycles; and conversational English classes to help guests seek better job opportunities.

The value of the St. Andrew By-The-Sea Soup Kitchen to our guest community is clear, not only in dollars but in the support and fellowship we provide. Our services continue to be offered twice a week in the Celebration Center—a welcoming and safe space that conveys dignity and friendship.

**memory matters** BRAIN-BOOSTING SOUP TRIO  
A MEDITERRANEAN COOKING DEMO BY  
MEMORY MATTERS



Thursday, January 22

11:00 AM – 1:00 PM

St. Andrew By-The-Sea UMC  
Celebration Center

20 Pope Ave., HHI, SC 29928

\$15 per person

Register Today!

[www.mymemorymatters.org/events](http://www.mymemorymatters.org/events)

Call (843) 842-6688

Chef Kim Baretta will talk about the benefits of the Mediterranean & MIND lifestyles. Cooking and grocery shopping tips will be part of this presentation as you learn to eat like a Mediterranean!

### Looking Ahead

In 2026, our goal is to continue and develop our mission. We anticipate focusing our energies and resources in four key areas:

1. Serving an additional 8–10 households by expanding communication about our services to the south island communities.
2. Transforming our Harvest Table food distribution into a “mini grocery store,” consistently offering meat, dairy, milk, vegetables, produce, fruit, canned goods, eggs, rice, beans, pasta, sweets, and bread on an all-you-need basis twice weekly on Tuesdays and Fridays.
3. Adding workbooks and similar resources to improve English fluency. With 80% of our guest families being Hispanic and primarily Spanish-speaking, we aim to provide a friendly, safe environment for practicing English, reducing language barriers between volunteers and guests.
4. Increasing volunteer and guest fellowship through activities such as English conversational classes and Bible study groups.

We look forward to a fantastic and wonderful year in 2026. We sincerely appreciate the community support and donations that empower our volunteers to achieve these goals. Our guest community is deeply thankful for the continued generosity.

# Fellowship Friends

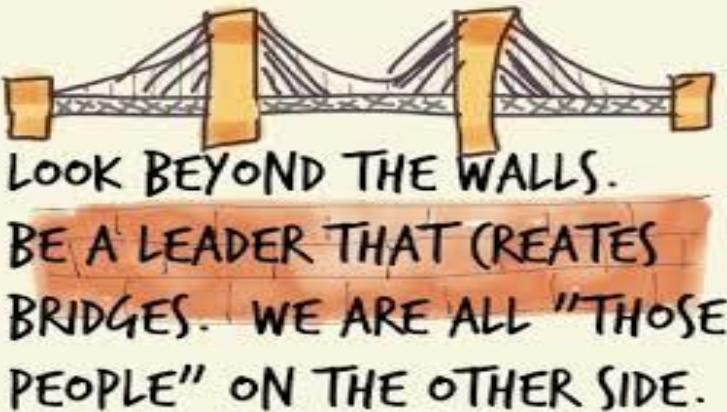
Tuesdays at 10:00 am via Zoom

Fun and engaging topics of discussion along with spiritual encouragement and support

Email [jaygraves@hotmail.com](mailto:jaygraves@hotmail.com) for a Zoom invitation.  
If you do not have access to the internet, you can still participate via telephone.

Call Jay at 843-342-6322 for directions on how to do this.

*Everyone is invited to join in!*



## BRIDGE BUILDERS

Monday, January 5 at 11:00 am  
Celebration Center, Rm CIII

All are welcome to join us to share your thoughts and help us make plans to move ahead in our understanding of racism.

Be sure to mark your calendar to join others from St. Andrew at the MLK Memorial March on January 19, no sign up required.

Also, plan now to attend the Campbell Chapel event with us on February 20. Please note the registration deadline of February 10; see the flyer for details.



Each week the Soup Kitchen provides a useful, valuable personal hygiene or cleaning item to our guests. Please consider donating some of these items on Suds Sunday. A great budget-friendly resource is Dollar Tree or a convenient option is to order on Amazon or Walmart and have the items delivered to the church.

All sizes of items accepted as long as they are *new and unopened*. Please bring them to the shopping cart in the Narthex at church along with your normal weekly grocery donations.

### Items needed

Shampoo/Conditioner, individual or combination  
Laundry detergent, all types  
Bar Soap, regular size bars  
Toothpaste

**Thank you!**



## MARTIN LUTHER KING 2026 CELEBRATION



January and April 2026



**Thursday, January 15**  
INTERFAITH SERVICE

7:00 p.m.  
Mount Calvary Baptist Church  
382 Squire Pope Road - Hilton Head, SC

**Saturday, January 17**  
HILTON HEAD  
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Cleanup of historic Gullah cemeteries  
(Cemeteries TBD)

**Monday, January 19**  
MLK MEMORIAL MARCH  
10:00 a.m.

Starting and ending at Hilton Head  
High School parking lot  
70 Wilborn Road - Hilton Head, SC

MLK MEMORIAL PROGRAM  
11:00 a.m.  
Community choir, keynote and other guest  
speakers, MLK Community Service Award  
Hilton Head High School  
Seahawk Cultural Center  
70 Wilborn Road - Hilton Head, SC

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON  
12:30 p.m.  
Hilton Head High School Cafeteria  
70 Wilborn Road - Hilton Head, SC

**Saturday, January 24**  
DAUFUSKIE ISLAND  
COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECT  
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
Cleanup of historic Gullah cemeteries  
Haig Point Ferry loads at 8:30 a.m.

**Saturday, April 11**  
CHILDREN'S FUN DAY  
12:30 - 3:30 p.m.  
Hilton Head Boys & Girls Club  
151 Gumtree Road - Hilton Head, SC

Should you wish to make a donation to the  
Hilton Head MLK Committee of Justice,  
please make your check payable to  
"Community Foundation of the Lowcountry"  
with "MLK Fund" on the memo line, or use  
the QR code to access the donation page on  
our website.

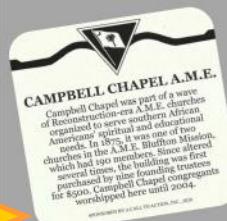


Hilton Head Island, SC  
[www.hiltonheadmlk.com](http://www.hiltonheadmlk.com)  
[hiltonheadmlk@gmail.com](mailto:hiltonheadmlk@gmail.com)  
803-702-1184

CAMPBELL CHAPEL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
MINISTRY (501C3)

Presents

Connecting Heritage  
with Restoration



### CAMPBELL CHAPEL A.M.E.

Built in 1853, this was originally  
Bluffton Methodist Episcopal Church.  
Organized by whites, the church's 216 members  
in 1861 included 181 African  
Americans, who were likely enslaved  
to its white congregants. The church  
caught fire during the Civil War but  
survived. By 1874, local freed people  
began worshipping here as an African  
Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church  
eventually known as Campbell Chapel.



### Historic Campbell Chapel

Discovering Bluffton's past together



Friday, February 20, 2026

**Time:** 11:00 a.m.

**Place:** Campbell Chapel AME Church  
25 Boundary Street  
Bluffton, SC 29910

**Donation will be accepted**

Event Registration required at: [www.HistoricCampbellChapel.com](http://www.HistoricCampbellChapel.com)

**DEADLINE** February 10, 2026





# ANNUAL COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER

Hilton Head Island, SC

St. Andrew and its founding partner, Hudson's Seafood House on the Docks, hosted another successful Annual Community Thanksgiving Dinner event on November 27. This 26-year alliance was also supported by contributions from our local church partners, First Presbyterian Church, Hilton Head Island Community Church, and Providence Presbyterian Church.

Approximately 325 volunteers welcomed, served, and fed 1,300+ people during Thanksgiving Weekend, and \$15K donations were collected for Bluffton Self Help, Second Helpings, and The Deep Well Project.

Thank you to the many SABTS volunteers who helped before, during, and after this year's event. Special thanks to Lorena Best and Brooke Peck for sharing their many talents with us and their steadfast support.

Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.

John Wesley

## Creating for Good

Thursdays at 10:30 am  
Re-starting on January 8

Come to knit, crochet, paint, and other craft options. Learn a new skill or share your favorite hobby with others. Feel free to bring your current project along and just be part of the fun and fellowship.

Our hope is to use many of the items that we create to bless others through our outreach efforts or within our church family. Supplies and guidance are provided as needed.

Contact: Connie Boswell-Smith at [smithsales1959@gmail.com](mailto:smithsales1959@gmail.com)



## GIVING AT A GLANCE (January - November 2025)

	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Variance favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Giving	\$873, 165	\$954, 800	(\$81, 635)

## OPERATING REVENUE AND EXPENSES (January - November 2025)

	Year-to-Date Actual	Year-to-Date Budget	Variance favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Revenue	\$896,164	\$971,531	(\$75,367)
Expenses	\$940,013	\$971,531	\$31,518
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$43,849)	\$0	(\$43,849)

# Christmas Grace

"The joy in the Celebration Center was palpable," shared one kitchen elf after Sunday, December 7! More than 200 people came together for Christmas Grace—purchasing gifts, donating wrapping paper or teddy bears, creating cross-stitched ornaments, and serving as one of over 130 elves.



This year, 102 families attended Christmas Grace! Outside, they were greeted with children's activities along with hot chocolate and coffee. Once inside, each family captured memories with a Christmas portrait. While the children entered the magical forest for crafts and activities, parents picked up their angel gifts, books, a hygiene basket, socks or underwear, and a teddy bear. Families were also invited to pray with a prayer elf, and the large majority chose to participate.



a God-filled, joy-filled event for our HHI neighbors!

## Youth Sunday School & Donuts

Return on January 4<sup>th</sup>

10:15 – 11:00 am

Grades 6 – 12\*

Join us weekly in the Youth Room



W. W. J. D

When in doubt  
Ask yourself  
What Would Jesus Do



Life comes at all of us fast. How can we pause, pray, and consider the words of Jesus, scriptures and the experience of others to help us make healthy choices. Many verses in the Bible tell us to Love Our Neighbor and Our Enemies. We'll discuss some of these and learn how not to sweat the small stuff while discovering it's all small stuff.

UMYF – 5:30 – 7:30 pm on January 11 & 25 REVOLUTION 2026 in Columbia – January 30 – February 1

\* Sunday School for Grades K-5 under development & coming soon



20 Pope Avenue  
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928

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## Connect with us!

20 Pope Avenue  
Hilton Head, SC 29928  
843.785.4711  
[standrewbytheseumc.org](http://standrewbytheseumc.org)  
[standrewbythesea@gmail.com](mailto:standrewbythesea@gmail.com)

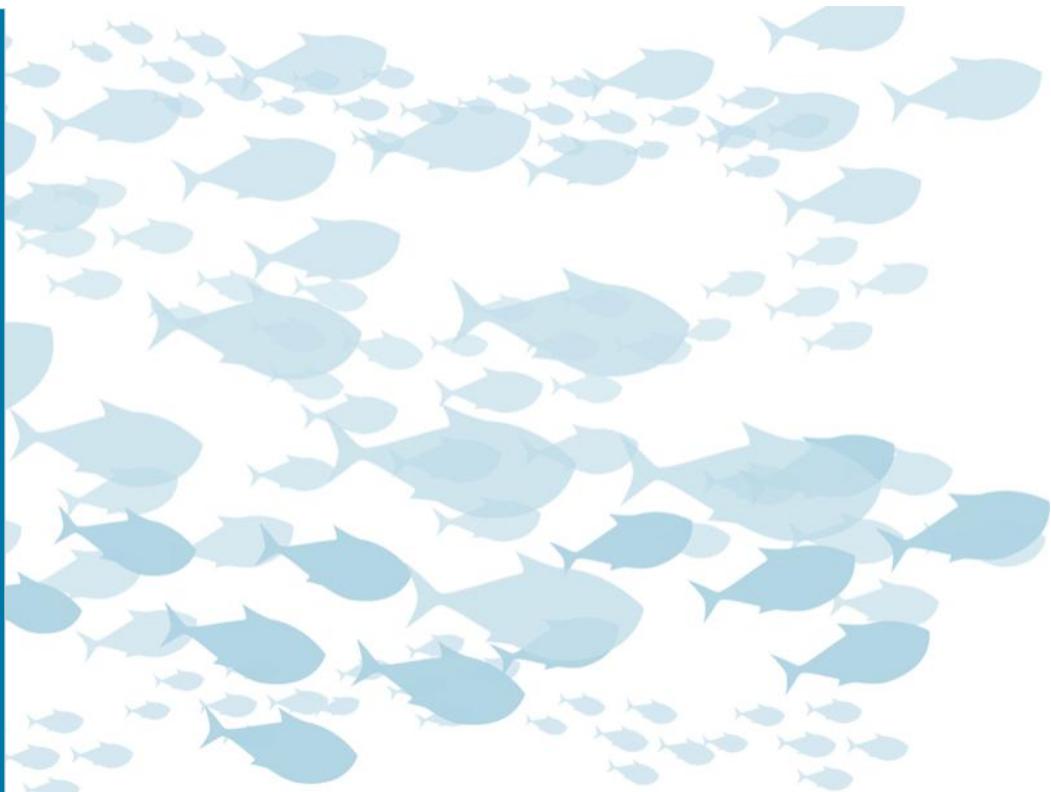
Church Office Hours  
M-F 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

**SUNDAY WORSHIP**  
In-person + Livestream  
9:00 am Traditional Worship  
10:15 am Classes for all ages  
11:09 am Modern Worship

Rev. Jonathan Tompkins  
Senior Pastor

Rev. Frank E. Lybrand  
Associate Pastor

Find us on all your  
favorite platforms



*St. Andrew By-The-Sea is an open, nurturing body of Christian believers seeking God's guidance as we minister to others.*