**St. Andrew’s Visitor’s Guide**

Welcome to St. Andrew's! St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is a vibrant, welcoming community of faith. Our core values are love, inclusiveness, hospitality, and beauty. We try to embody the reconciling love of God in all that we do. Everyone is welcome to worship with us.

**Some Episcopalian Terms**

**Episcopal Church:** As members of the [Anglican Communion](https://www.episcopalchurch.org/who-we-are/anglican-communion/) in the United States, we are descendants of and partners with the Church of England and the Scottish Episcopal Church, and are part of the third largest group of Christians in the world. Episcopalians value Scripture, Tradition, and Reason equally.

**Diocese:** A group of Episcopal parishes in the same region under the direction of a bishop.

**Parish:** An Episcopal congregation under the spiritual care of a priest.

**Priest:** An ordained rector, or pastor. Episcopal priests may be male or female and are allowed to marry.

**Deacon:** A member of the clergy who assists bishops and priests and is especially dedicated to acts of service.

**Nave:** The church sanctuary where worship takes place.

**Liturgy:** A form of public worship, how worship is conducted. In the Episcopal Church, our liturgy includes Scripture readings, a sermon, prayers, hymns and songs, the confession of sin and absolution, the exchange of peace, and the celebration of the Eucharist (Holy Communion). The basic liturgy will be the same each Sunday in terms of how the worship service is organized, but the readings, songs, and liturgical colors will vary.

**Liturgical Seasons:** The major seasons of the Church calendar, including Advent season, Christmas season, Epiphany season, Lenten season, Holy Week, Easter season, and the season after Pentecost. Each season has special colors, observances, and rituals.

**Book of Common Prayer:** We, who are many and diverse, come together in Christ through our worship, our common prayer. The prayer book, first published in 1549 and most recently revised in 1979, contains our liturgies, including Scripture readings, our prayers, our theological documents. It is the red book in every pew.

**Eucharist:** The sacrament of Christ’s body and blood, also referred to as Holy Communion. The Eucharist was instituted by Christ at the Last Supper. At St. Andrew’s, everyone is welcome to receive the Eucharist and be in communion with God and each other. The Eucharist consists of consecrated bread and wine.

**Lectionary:** An ordered system for reading Scripture during church services. Usually, each service has a reading from the Old Testament, the Psalms, the New Testament, and the Gospel.

**Sacrament:**  Outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace. **Holy Baptism** and the **Eucharist** (or Holy Communion) are the two great sacraments given by Christ to his Church. Other spiritual experiences and rituals in our journey of faith can also serve as means of grace, including Confirmation, Reconciliation (confession), Matrimony, Holy Orders, and Holy Unction (anointing with holy oil).

**Vestry:** The vestry is the elected body of the parish that shares with the rector the responsibility for oversight of parish life, ministry, and finances. Parishioners elect vestry members at the Annual Meeting of the parish.

**Formation:** The equivalent of Sunday School. We offer diverse formation options for adults, youth (EYC), and children in Lowndes Hall, south of the Nave. This includes a Seekers and Newcomers class.

**Columbarium:** The area in the church courtyard designated for the interment of the ashes of parishioners who have died and been cremated.