

# ST. A'S NEWS

## Remember in prayer

Alan, Ed Baker, Barb, Bert, Bev, Charlotte Birchard, Bob, Carol, Christine, Francis Cook, Kelly DelGaizo, Bill Elliott, John Flemming, Ellen Gracie, Melissa Grettler, John Griffin, Jack Grippe, Patti Havrilla, Zack Irwin, Janet B., Eileen Knepshield, Linda, Lisa, Maggie, Mary, Michelle Means, David Nicolls, Liz Pavolko, Peter, Peggy Perkins, Jean Plesea, John Reibel, Lou Salzer, Terri Sebring, Doug Trabert, Russ Vaughn, Victoria, Sue, Brad Webber, Sue Wendell, Sally & Tony Williams, Peace on Earth

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

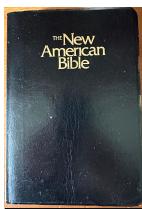
### JANUARY HAPPY BIRTHDAY greetings to:

1/2 Chad Kulka  
1/14 Jay Schenck  
1/19 Dave Fulford

O God, our times are in your hand:  
Look with favor, we pray, on your  
servants, as they begin another year.  
Grant that they may grow in wisdom  
and grace, and strengthen their trust in  
your goodness all the days of their life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

### Thank You!

Also a big Thank You to all those who  
help to bring you information on our  
Facebook page, New Website, and the  
Newsletter.



[The Bible Project](#)

### -Outreach-

- ◆ **Social Knitworking/Makers:** Will be on hold until spring. For more information contact Pam Ostrander.
- ◆ The Safe Journey Woman's Shelter collection is ongoing. Please continue to donate gently used or new clothing, household appliances and accessories needed to help families make a new start. Collection baskets are under the Outreach Tale and your donations are greatly appreciated. Thank you.
- ◆ The Quilt group will meet the third Monday of the month at 1:00 pm. For more details contact Karen Bond.
- ◆ The Episcopal Relief and Development fund helps with disaster relief worldwide. You can find out how to help at [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org)

### -News of Note-

- ◆ Healing Prayer will be offered the first Sunday of the month at the altar following the service.
- ◆ The Annual Meeting will be held January 25, 2026. We will be having a potluck brunch.
- ◆ Thank you to all who turned in their pledges. The 2026 budget has been prepared and will be presented at the Annual Meeting.
- ◆ We can always use a few more LEM's to help with the Sunday services. If you are interested in becoming a LEM please contact Fr. Dave.

### -A View From the Pew-

January feels like the sound of a book opening. The calendar flips, the house grows quiet again, and suddenly we are holding twelve blank chapters in our hands. Some of us are eager to start writing. Some of us are still tired from the last story. And some of us—if we're honest—are peeking ahead, a little nervous about what the pages might hold.

The good news is this. God already knows the whole story and He is not worried. January is not a test. It is an invitation. An invitation to begin again. To pray a little more honestly. To listen a little longer. To trust that God can work with what we bring—unanswered prayers, shaky faith, worry and fear.

As a church family, we step into this year together. We will celebrate joys, carry burdens, laugh often, and sometimes trip over our own good intentions. Through it all, God remains steady, faithful, and kind.

So let us start this year gently. Let us leave room for grace. Let us show up for one another—not perfectly, but faithfully.

May our church be a place where questions are welcome, hope is practiced, and love is lived out in ordinary, beautiful ways.

And if you're wondering how to begin this year, here's a good place to start:  
Take a breath.  
Say a prayer.  
Turn the page.

God is already there.

Happy New Year!!! *Cyndi Altman*



### The Lectionary

#### Sunday January 4

[Jeremiah 31:7-14](#)

[Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a](#)

[Matthew 2:13-15,19-23](#)

or [Luke 2:41-52](#)

or [Matthew 2:1-12](#)

[Psalm 84 or 84:1-8](#)

#### Sunday January 11

[Isaiah 42:1-9](#)

[Acts 10:34-43](#)

[Matthew 3:13-17](#)

[Psalm 29](#)

#### Sunday January 18

[Isaiah 49:1-7](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#)

[John 1:29-42](#)

[Psalm 40:1-12](#)

#### Sunday January 25

[Isaiah 49:1-7](#)

[1 Corinthians 1:1-9](#)

[John 1:29-42](#)

[Psalm 40:1-12](#)

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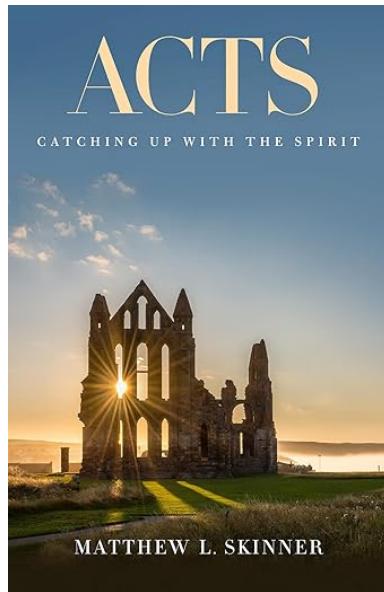
[St.AugustineEdinboro/](#)

St. Augustine of Canterbury  
Episcopal Church  
and on the Web  
<https://www.staugustineedinboro.org>

### Let Us Pray:

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with  
thy most gracious favor, and further us  
with thy continual help; that in all our  
works begun, continued, and ended in  
*thee*, we may glorify thy holy Name, and  
finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting  
life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### -A Good Read-



In *Acts: Catching up with the Spirit*, author and biblical scholar Matthew Skinner provides a broad yet theologically attuned introduction to this important book and its story of the early church learning to bear witness about God's salvation through Jesus Christ..

Skinner explores six key themes that illustrate the ways in which reading Acts is capable of igniting our imagination about the character of the Christian message, the work of God's people (the church), and the challenges of living faithfully in a complex and changing world.

[Amazon](#)

[Cokesbury](#)

[Promotional video](#)

### -Vicar's Note-

Happy New year everyone and time for a fresh start. Many of us will make New Year's resolutions and often for Christians it is to read the entire Bible from cover to cover. That is an awesome task and I would say for most a nearly impossible thing to do if you decide to read the Bible as one would read a novel, which is something I would not recommend you try. Most people who do this will find themselves getting bogged down somewhere around the book of Leviticus and pretty much give up.

So how do we read this massive work and try to find meaning and connection to God? If you are not already familiar with the scriptures, I would strongly suggest finding a good reading plan that offers guidance and context for what you are reading. I have found the The Bible Project to be a good resource. For those of you who have access to the internet The Bible Project offers a number of "Read the Bible in One Year" plans that are free. If you are interested here is a link to the site: <https://bibleproject.com/reading-plans/>.

One last thing to consider. The Bible, especially the Old Testament is Jewish mediation literature that contains history, poetry, wisdom, miracles but most importantly the story of God and His creation. Don't just read the words, but rather take some time to sit with them to see what God is saying to you. Listen or in ancient Hebrew, Shema with your heart as God speaks to you.

May you have a happy and prosperous new year as you grow closer to God and His creation. Peace, Fr. Dave +