

# ST. ANDREW'S



## PARISH PROFILE

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF BOCA GRANDE, FLORIDA

390 GILCHRIST AVE • BOCA GRANDE • [STANDREWSBOCAGRANDE.ORG](http://STANDREWSBOCAGRANDE.ORG)

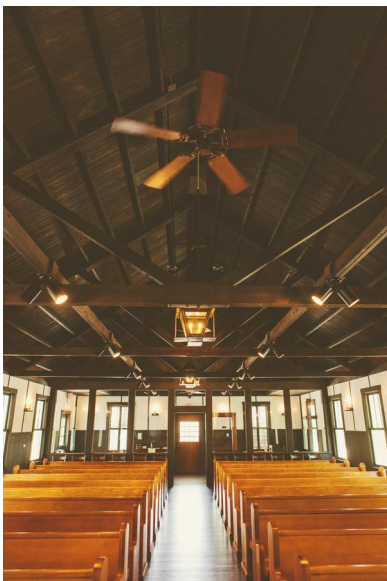


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**W**ELCOME! *We are delighted that you are interested in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. As we enter a new chapter of change and potential and prayerfully discern God's direction for our parish, we hope that the Holy Spirit will move you to consider joining us as our leader - to recognize our gifts, address our challenges, and empower us to reach new heights in our journey in faith.*







# Who We Are



## A Parish that Makes a Difference





# Our Congregation

We are a Parish of about 200 people, many of whom are "snowbirds" arriving in October or November and journeying back North for the summer months. During the winter season, church attendance at our two weekly services averages 160 people, plus 30 or more who stream online. During the summer months, the congregation averages about 40 people.

Our congregation is fortunate to have a lay leadership and many parishioners serving as Outreach Mission and Altar Guild members. Others participate as Lectors, Chalice Bearers, Choir members, Greeters, and Chapter House hospitality.

We have a strong sense of community, fellowship and faith. Ecumenically, we join with other Boca Grande churches on our island for joint services on Thanksgiving, Christmas week, Good Friday Stations of the Cross, and the Easter Sunrise Service on the beach.





# Fellowship

Opportunities to receive and spread the Word and enjoy fellowship abound at St. Andrew's on Sunday mornings at coffee hour and also Monday through Saturday, year-round.

- Our popular **"Dinners for Eight"** offer time to casually be together and get to know the people we worship with on Sundays. Parish members open their homes for fabulous meals and lively conversation.



- **"Faith and..."** Lecture Series where we are invited to discover the profound wisdom that lies at the intersection of faith and various aspects of our daily lives.

- **Bible Studies** invite us to embark on a journey of spiritual growth and camaraderie that promises to strengthen our faith and forge lasting connections with fellow believers. Our gatherings are a welcoming space where men and women of all backgrounds and experience explore the teachings of the Bible.



- **Men & Women's Breakfast** A few times each season, parishioners come together over breakfast—think savory quiches, fresh fruit, and plenty of coffee—to deepen relationships and faith. Lay leaders invite guest speakers who spark lively conversation on Scripture, community service, and everyday discipleship.

# Our History

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Boca Grande, Florida, traces its origins to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, closely linked to the development of the island by the Charlotte Harbor and Northern Railroad. The building that would become our church was originally constructed as one of the railroad houses to accommodate workers in downtown Boca Grande. Around 1909 this structure was converted for use as a church, marking the beginnings of the congregation.

The first recorded Episcopal service in Boca Grande was conducted by Bishop William Crane Gray on March 21, 1911, in the waiting room of the train depot, reflecting the nascent stage of the church community at that time. Although the congregation began gathering in 1909, it was officially established as a mission in 1911 according to diocesan records.







In 1916, the church building was physically moved to its current location at the corner of Gilchrist and Fourth Streets (now 390 Gilchrist Avenue), where it remains today. Over the years, St. Andrew's evolved from a seasonal unorganized mission into a structured and active parish, serving both local residents and seasonal visitors to Gasparilla Island.

After decades as a mission, St. Andrew's achieved full parish status within the Diocese of

Southwest Florida in 2009, following a two-year discernment process that clarified its direction and commitment to outreach and community engagement. The church launched a significant capital campaign and expanded its ministries, strengthening its role as both a spiritual and community center with its beautiful sanctuary, chapter house and rectory in the heart of Boca Grande Village.





# Outreach Ministry

**Apostles Build Project - Charlotte County.** Our church is proud to participate in the Charlotte County Apostles Build, a special partnership with Habitat for Humanity where local churches come together to put faith into action. Each congregation contributes time, talent, and resources to help build a home for a family in need. It's a powerful way for the Christian community to work side-by-side, living out the Gospel by helping others achieve safe and affordable housing.

**Boys and Girls Club - Englewood, Charlotte County.** St. Andrew's is proud to support the Charlotte County Boys & Girls Club of Englewood through financial contributions that help fund their after-school programs. Each year, we also host a joyful Easter celebration at their facility, sharing the love of Christ with the children in fun and meaningful ways. This partnership is one of the many ways we live out our call to serve our local community.

**DaySpring Summer Camp Scholarships.** St. Andrew's provides scholarships to help send children and youth to summer camp at DaySpring, the Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida's retreat and conference center. These camps offer fun, faith-filled experiences that help young people grow spiritually, build friendships, and deepen their connection to God—all in a beautiful, natural setting.

**Englewood. Englewood Community Care Center.** St. Andrew's provides financial support to the Englewood Community Care Center, a vital local organization offering medical care to uninsured and underserved members of our community. With the help of volunteer doctors and nurses, the center provides compassionate healthcare, helping to ensure that no one is left without essential treatment simply because they cannot afford it. Our support helps extend this ministry of healing and hope.



**Red Bag Ministry.** Our Red Bag Ministry is a hands-on way for parishioners to support those in need throughout the year. Using reusable red bags provided by St. Andrew's, we invite everyone to fill them during designated drives—whether it's non-perishable food for the homeless or Christmas gifts for local seniors. It's a simple but powerful way to share God's love and generosity with our neighbors.

**Seminary Student Support.** As part of our commitment to the future of the Church, our congregation provides financial support to seminary students. These students are often chosen or recommended by our rector and are preparing for ordained ministry. Our generosity helps ease the burden of their education and formation as they answer God's call to serve.

**Senior Friendship Centers.** St. Andrew's supports the Senior Friendship Centers, a vital resource for older adults in our larger off-island community. Through programs that promote health, connection, and independence, the centers provide meals, medical services, and social activities to seniors in need. Our financial support helps ensure these important services remain available to those who rely on them.

**Soldier Boxes Ministry.** Our church participates in the Soldier Boxes project, sending care packages to U.S. service members stationed overseas. These boxes are filled with snacks, toiletries, letters, and small comforts from home to show our gratitude and support. Each year, children from the Island School join us in packing the boxes, making this a meaningful community effort that brings joy to both senders and recipients.

**S.O.L.V.E. Maternity Homes.** St. Andrew's supports S.O.L.V.E., a faith-based organization that provides housing and support for young women facing unplanned pregnancies. With locations throughout Southwest Florida, S.O.L.V.E. offers a safe, nurturing environment where mothers and their babies can thrive. Our financial contributions help empower these women with resources, education, and the love of Christ during a critical time in their lives.



# Worship Ministry

When we gather in worship, we open our hearts to experience God's love and grace throughout our everyday lives. At St. Andrew's, our parish is dedicated to coming together each week to meet Christ in the Eucharist, and nurturing our faith each day in prayer and reflection on Scripture.

## Sundays

Holy Eucharist, Rite II

## January - April

8:00 A.M. AND 9:30 A.M.

## May - December

9:30 A.M.

## MUSIC

St. Andrew's has been blessed with a wonderful music program. In 2021, our aging custom-built Tracker pipe organ was replaced with a custom Walker Digital organ. Its robust tone and incredible system of speakers throughout the sanctuary have resulted in a beautiful distribution of sound. Our Steinway grand piano is also a great addition to the program.

We have been fortunate to have attracted talented music directors over the years, leading our choir and congregation to joyous musical heights. Our choir is comprised of dedicated and talented volunteer singers who work throughout the season to give us a beautiful musical inspiration. The island's interdenominational *The Grande Chorus* also performs at St. Andrew's during season.

Each year St. Andrew's sponsors our Concert series held in our sanctuary on Sunday afternoons and we welcome the entire community.





# Our Facilities

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church is nestled among palm trees and pristine beaches on Gasparilla Island, offering a tranquil and inviting environment for worship and reflection. The sanctuary serves as the spiritual heart of the church, welcoming both locals and visitors through its iconic red doors for over a century.

The sanctuary retains much of its original charm, including pine wainscoting on the walls and original light fixtures, contributing to its timeless, peaceful ambiance. The sanctuary is not only a place for regular worship but also hosts concerts and special events, emphasizing its role as a cultural and spiritual hub for the Boca Grande community.

Adjacent to the sanctuary is our recently restored Memorial Garden which features a full-sized labyrinth and vibrant landscaping, providing additional sacred space for prayer and outdoor services.





The Chapter House at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church serves as an elegant public space designed for church gatherings and community events. Architecturally, it features sliding glass doors that open onto a covered porch providing views of the Memorial Garden, which enhances the connection between indoor and outdoor spaces and emphasizes the church's "island elegance" aesthetic. The space is versatile, accommodating coffee hours, bible studies, meetings, community events, and even bridal dressing areas, making it a central hub for parish life. Its design, inspired by the historic "railroad house" style, blends seamlessly with the rest of the church campus and the surrounding Boca Grande community, maintaining a sense of local architectural heritage.

The rectory known as the Gardner Cottage was constructed as part of a major renovation and expansion completed in 2010. It provides a gracious and comfortable residence for the Rector's family, ensuring the clergy can live adjacent to the church and remain closely connected to parish life. The home spans approximately 2,400 square feet and includes separate living and public/reception areas, supporting both family life and church hospitality needs. With an open floor plan, a spacious office and den, a beautiful new kitchen, and three bedrooms, the rectory is truly a "storybook cottage."



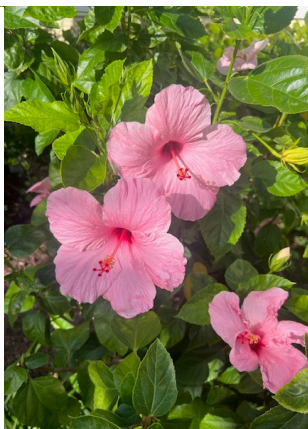


# Our Local Community

Life as a resident of Boca Grande is defined by tranquility, natural beauty, and a strong sense of community. Represented on the National Register of Historic Places, our island maintains strict development controls in order to preserve its old Florida charm, and we pride ourselves on our nature preserve status and protection of our extraordinary wildlife. The Boca Grande community cares deeply for the arts and is proud of its many cultural offerings. Our beautiful, courtyard-centered library offers a multitude of renowned speakers and programs, while the historic Community Center hosts our talented Royal Palm Players, Women's and Men's Clubs, outdoor concerts, and events throughout the year. Residents also enjoy the rich music of The Grande Chorus, the services of the Boca Grande Clinic, the fellowship of several churches on the island, and the warmth of a community where everyone looks out for one another.

Residents often begin their days with sunrise walks on pristine beaches, bike rides along the island's scenic pathways, or early morning fishing excursions in waters famous for world-class tarpon fishing. Boating is a way of life here, with the clear Gulf waters providing endless opportunities for sailing, cruising, and exploring nearby islands. The pace is unhurried, and the primary mode of transportation around town is the golf cart, which adds to the relaxed, small-town feel. Encounters with neighbors are frequent and friendly — whether it's a stroll to the post office, a visit to Hudson's Grocery, or a stop at a local boutique, you're likely to greet familiar faces and exchange pleasantries.

Hot summers and mild winters encourage an outdoor-centric lifestyle year-round. Residents enjoy walking, biking, and jogging along island-long pathways, as well as swimming, tennis, and golf at local clubs and communities. Best of all are leisurely beach walks, shelling, and watching spectacular sunsets in the company of neighbors and friends — a simple pleasure that never loses its magic.









# Finance and Stewardship

St. Andrew's operating budget for 2025 is \$545,000. In addition to the operating budget, the church is blessed with a strong endowment, which generated over \$200,000 in 2024. Please note that the endowment can be used to fund operations but has not been needed. We also regularly receive restricted gifts, which have been used, for example, to update the Memorial Garden and to repair landscaping after hurricanes. Overall, our cash position remains strong.

As of July, we have received approximately 160 pledges for the year. By the end of 2025, we expect that number to increase to virtually the same as last year.

We are continually amazed by the generosity of our parish, especially in the aftermath of hurricanes Ian, Helene, and Milton. All damage to our church campus has been repaired, and we are looking forward to a bright future.





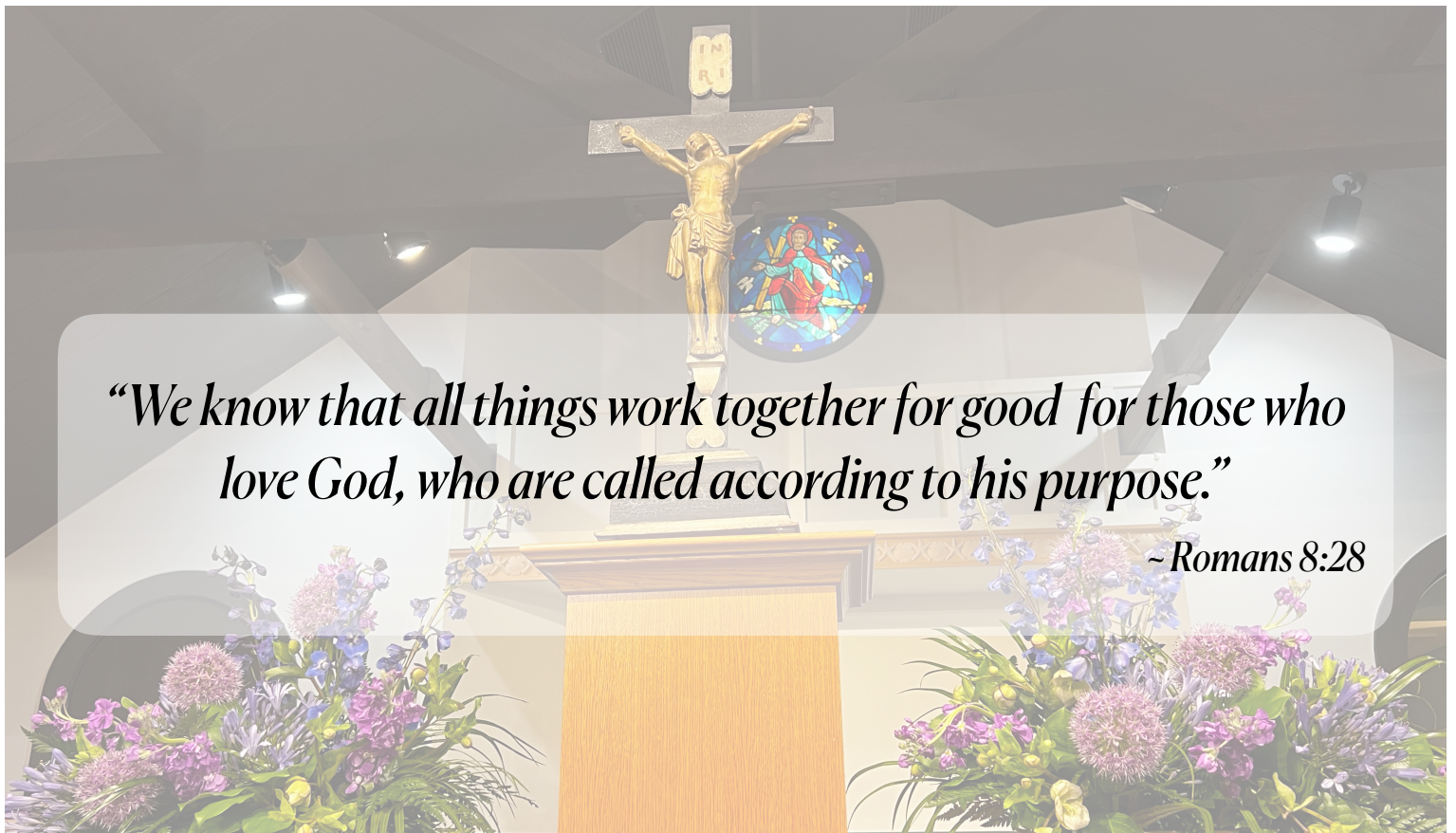
# Our Hopes and Aspirations

St. Andrew's overriding goals are to serve the Lord in thought, word, and deed; to call a priest to lead us toward greater knowledge of our faith and belief in God.

We seek to inspire, educate, and engage our congregation in order to broaden our ministry, to enhance stewardship to ensure ongoing financial security for our future generations, and to expand and strengthen our ministry of music.

St. Andrew's is in a period of transition, seeking a new rector to lead our vibrant parish. This is a healthy and positive opportunity to begin a journey with a commitment to reaching new heights in service to Christ. Our foundation is strong. We were blessed to have a priest who served us faithfully and lovingly for twelve years, while leading us through the challenges of a pandemic and multiple hurricanes.

We believe that God will lead our next Rector to us! Our task is to discern and call that person. To help with this process, St. Andrew's conducted a "Holy Cow" survey during Spring of 2025 to identify those qualities our congregation is seeking in rector.





## ***We seek a Rector ...***

***... who will be a gifted preacher, capable of delivering thoughtful and engaging sermons that resonate with wisdom, insight, and a profound understanding of the Bible.***

Their words will not only challenge the mind but also touch the heart, offering comfort and a renewed sense of connection to God and one another.

## ***We seek a Rector ...***

***... who will possess exceptional pastoral care and interpersonal skills, demonstrating genuine empathy, a compassionate listening ear, and a natural ability to provide solace and guidance during life's joys and challenges.***

Given our demographic, a patient and understanding approach to the unique needs and experiences of our senior members is paramount.

## ***We seek a Rector ...***

***... who will be a visionary leader, capable of discerning the evolving needs of our congregation and inspiring us to embrace new opportunities for growth and service.***

They will help us build upon our strong foundation as a "hearth and home" while thoughtfully considering how to best serve God in the years to come.











## St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

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