



A Message from our pastor, Rev. Dr. Daryl Goldman



Members and friends of St. Andrew, the Lord be with you! This is an exciting season of spring flowers, warmer weather, and our upcoming Easter celebration. The Church actually celebrates Easter for about seven weeks in what we call “Eastertide.” It is a very important time for the Church because Jesus’ resurrection signaled his victory over death. Since that day, He has been awakening millions like you and me to spiritual life.

This church family has in common a faith that provides comfort, encouragement, assures us of forgiveness, and inspires us to believe God has wonderful plans for us—not to harm us but to bless us. In the aisle of our sanctuary, we celebrate baptisms, graduations, weddings, and gather at the end of life as believers with a hope the world did not give and the world cannot take away. Our strength as a church comes from our great diversity of faith and openness to everyone. Though far from perfect, we join together as People of God learning, worshiping and fellowshiping together—always inviting others to, as Andrew said to his brother, “Come and see!”

Because of the Risen Christ, there are no sins that cannot be forgiven. He inspires us to trust in new beginnings and to let Him help us become everything we were created to be.

However, Jesus gave us a mission—to reach out to others with the Good News that Christ is available to everyone. He gave his own life so that whoever believes in Him will have joy in this life and everlasting life to follow. When we invite others to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection, we are inviting them to celebrate life over death.

Therefore, I have a challenge for you. On Palm Sunday we will pass out some postcards to make it extremely easy for you to invite your neighbors, friends, or family to church on Easter. It always amazed me that although I know quite a few people who do not attend church, I still feel nervous about inviting them. Well, I do have enough courage to hand them a postcard or, if nothing else, put a stamp on it and mail it next door!

Darryl



VOLUNTEERS FOR April 2017

	4/2	4/9	4/16	4/23	4/30
Liturgists	Turner Matthews	B.J. Breeding	Nellie Gates	Ceil Hydrick	Linda Webster
Ushers	J. Abbott S. Strong H. Moore J. Newbill J. Brandon alt	D. Foster T. Matthews J. Shull M. Marsh F Webster alt	D. Coshow D. Watt Ed Wyle C. Hydrick G. Hilleary alt	D. Ellerbe H. Culbert G. Vogel D. Nelson J. Boyd alt	J. Abbott S. Strong H. Moore J. Newbill J. Brandon alt
Nursery	Shelly Shull	Terri Morris	Betty Matthews	Sherrie Nelson	Cheryl Ellerbe
Children's Message	Communion	Ceil Hydrick	Pastor	Pastor	Pastor
Wednesday Host	4/5 Greg Vogel	4/12 No church	4/19 Bob & Jackie Naumann	4/26 Nellie Gates	
Communion Preparers:	David & Cheryl Ellerbe		Communion Servers 3/5	B.J. Breeding, Ceil Hydrick, Linda Webster, Turner Matthews, Nellie Gates	

If you cannot serve at your appointed time, please get a substitute or contact Linda Webster. Ushers please use alternate, or call Don Foster, Head Usher.



A P R I L 2 0 1 7

- Sun, Apr 2 8:45 am Bible Study for all ages
10:00 am Worship
- Tues, Apr 4 7:00 pm Presbyterian Women
- Wed, Apr 5 Noon - Brown Bag Lunch with the Pastor**
6:00 pm Potluck Supper
6:30 pm Classes for all ages
7:30 pm Choir
7:30 pm Pack Easter dinners after church
- Fri, Apr 7 7:00 am - 2:00 pm CCC Rummage Sale, 119 First Ave. Downtown
- Sun, Apr 9 Passion/Palm Sunday / **One Great Hour of Sharing Offering**
8:30 am Presbyterian Women's Bake Sale
8:45 am Bible Study for all ages
10:00 am Worship
- Mon, Apr 10 Deliver Easter dinners to CCC
- Wed, Apr 12 No church activities
- Thurs, Apr 13 6:00 pm Joint Maundy Thursday Service with other PCUSA churches at Westminster on Jackson Street**
- Sun, Apr 16 Easter/Resurrection of the Lord**
8:30-8:45 Fellowship with juice, coffee and finger foods, Fellowship Hall
8:45 am Bible Study and Easter Egg Hunt for children
9:30-9:45 Fellowship with juice, coffee and finger foods, Fellowship Hall
10:00 am Worship
- Mon, Apr 17 Easter Monday - Office Closed
- Wed, Apr 19 4:00 PM Communication & Outreach Meeting**
5:30 pm Backpack Night in Jr. High Room
6:00 pm Potluck Supper
6:30 pm Classes for all ages
7:30 pm Choir
- Sun, Apr 23 8:45 am Bible Study for all ages
10:00 am Worship
- Tues, Apr 25 10:00 am Page Turner's Book Club Meeting
- Wed, Apr 26 6:00 pm Potluck Supper
6:30 pm Classes for all ages
7:30 pm Choir
- Sun, Apr 30 8:45 am Bible Study for all ages
10:00 am Worship



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Cecil Hydrick	Apr 7
Connie Lawton	Apr 7
Doug Coshow	Apr 22
Greg Vogel	Apr 22



EVERY WEDNESDAY
Potluck Dinner & Bible Study for all ages!
6:00 pm Potluck Dinner
6:30 pm Bible Study for all ages
7:30 pm Choir
(No Activities on April 12.)
Hosts needed, sign-up on bulletin board.

Presbyterian Women
Tuesday, April 4 at 7:00 PM
Church Fellowship Hall
Lesson Leader: Margaret Marsh
Lesson: "Who is Jesus: According to the Non-Canonical Gospel"
Hostess: Mavis Stephens



Presbyterian Women's Bake Sale
Sunday, April 9 at 8:30 am-11:15 am
Casseroles, pies, cakes, cookies and décor.

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering--April 9

"Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." 1 Peter 4:10

By participating in One Great Hour of Sharing, you can serve people in your community and around the world by alleviating hunger, rebuilding after crises or catastrophe, and working to overcome oppression. Offering will be collected Sunday, April 9. See your bulletin for inserts.



MISSION REPORT

Next Backpack Night is Wednesday, April 19 at 5:30 pm in the Jr. High Room

We need donations to feed the kids who might go hungry on the weekend without our help of bags filled with meals. Each bag has something for breakfast, lunch, and 2 snacks a day over the weekend. Let's feed the kids of Decatur.

Donations are accepted in the tub at the Donation Location in the hall.
Thank you for your support, it takes a village of willing helpers!



Thank you to all who gave to feed the hungry of our community with an Easter dinner. The CCC appreciates all we do to help them minister to Decatur and Morgan County.



Easter 2016

Flowering of the Cross

Bring real or artificial flowers to decorate the cross on Easter Sunday. Please place flowers on the cross near the fountain before Worship.



**Brown Bag Lunch with the Pastor
Wednesday, April 5 at noon
Church Library**

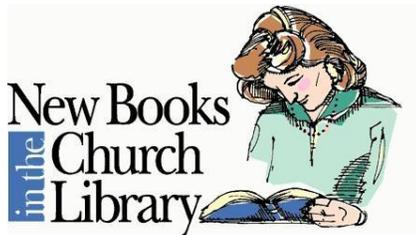
Come, bring your lunch, and have a casual time of conversation with the pastor and others in the church. We won't be solving any of the world's problems, just enjoying the fellowship of one another. Let Bonita or the Pastor know if you are coming by Monday, April 3.

SEEKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS
New Study: "The Gospels" Starts May 7

Could you explain to someone in a few minutes what the differences are between the four Gospels? Why do we even have four? What is unique about Matthew? What primary audience did Luke have? What stories are in John but not in the others?

Each of the four Gospels reveals a slightly different picture of Jesus. Studying them together can help us understand who Jesus is and what it means to be a follower of Christ. In this study, we will explore how the original context of each Gospel shapes the story of Jesus it presents, as well as how the different Gospel stories influence how Jesus is commonly represented in our culture.

Won't you consider joining the Seekers class on **May 7 at 8:45** as we begin to move through all four gospels and learn the similarities and differences among them? John Jordan and B.J. Breeding will lead the class in informal lessons. Come and bring a friend. You will find us and a warm welcome in Room 111.



Terri Morris has given St. Andrew library four books just in time for our Spring reading. Thank you Terri.

1. Merle's Door by Ted Kerasote: Merle and Ted found each other in the Utah desert--Merle living wild and Ted looking for a pup to shape into a companion. Their journey is part adventure, part love story and

part insightful explanation of how sharing leadership with your dog will make him a better best friend. A National Bestseller!

2. A Dog's Purpose by Bruce Cameron: Heartwarming, insightful and often laugh-out-loud funny. It is not only the emotional story of a dog's many lives, but also a dog's-eye commentary on human relationships and the unbreakable bonds between man and man's best friend. "A tail-wagging, three-hanky boo-hoer...delightful" says *Publishers Weekly*.

3. Two Old Women by Velma Wallis: An Alaska legend of betrayal, courage and survival. Winner of the Western States Book Award.

4. Hope Through Heartsongs by Mattie J.T. Stepanek: This is a book of poems that give us hope in difficult times. Mattie is a young man who has written three books of poems to encourage people in their time of loss, suffering, and pain. Mattie has been writing since the age of three. He suffers from a rare form of muscular dystrophy. In 1999, he was awarded the Melinda Lawrence International Book Award for inspirational written works by Children's Hospice International.

NORTH ALABAMA PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 24, GRACE PRESBYTERIAN IN MADISON

Registration starts at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6:00 pm. The speaker will be Dale Vandiver, former Moderator of the National Presbyterian Men. Please call in your reservation to the church office or Tom Meier by Wednesday, April 19. All men invited!

RUMMAGE SALE



CCC Spring Rummage Sale
Friday, April 7
7:00 am - 2:00 pm

A little bit of everything including restaurant equipment, and serve ware.



Join Us in Celebrating 50 Years of Camp at Maranatha!
If you love Maranatha, please join us on April 29th as the Alumni Association hosts to celebrate over 4 generations of those who have been touched over the past 50 years.



We hope that you'll join us on April 29th as the Maranatha Alumni Association, hosted by Camp Maranatha's Non-profit Board, gathers everyone together to celebrate in a homecoming reunion for those who have been touched by Maranatha over the past 50 years. Whether you were at camp recently or haven't been in decades, we are eagerly looking forward to this opportunity to get the whole Maranatha Family together to reminisce, share pictures, play camp games, eat a potluck lunch, and hear from our Director, Chase Epps, about the vision for success we have for Maranatha. More information is available on the recently overhauled camp website, <http://maranatha.camp>. If you plan to attend, you can either RSVP on facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/events/1209301299182730/>) or via email at rsvp@maranathaalumni.com. We hope to see you on April 29th at Maranatha!

BOOK CLUB

St. Andrew Page Turner's April Book All Over but the Shoutin' by Rick Bragg

This is the story of Rick Bragg who grew up in northeastern Alabama, destined for either the cotton mills or the penitentiary, and instead became a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for *The New York Times*.

Bragg's mother went eighteen years without a new dress so that her sons could have school clothes and picked other people's cotton so that her children wouldn't have to live on welfare alone. Next discussion meeting will be Tuesday, April 25, at 10:00 am in the church library. Come join us!



The NCC and CCC invites you to a "Knife Sharpening" Fundraiser Saturday, April 22, 10:00 am- 2:00 pm at The Cupboard on Bank Street

Join us and Wusthof for the 2nd annual knife sharpening event, Saturday, April 22, 2017 in downtown Decatur at The Cupboard at 504 Bank Street NE. Wusthof representatives will be on hand to sharpen your kitchen knives from 10:00am-2:00pm. **All proceeds will be divided and benefit the Committee on Church Cooperation and the Neighborhood Christian Center.**

Cost is \$5.00 per knife. No serrated blades, scissors, or yard tools please. Please come out, bring your knives and help support two organizations that support so many in our community!



LOCAL MISSION OPPORTUNITY

St. Andrew has teamed with 2 other churches and the community to build a house for the Moore Family. Construction begins on April 4 and will be completed in June. If you can help in any way, please talk to Greg Vogel or Stu Strong, or go to <http://morganhabitat.org> to sign up on-line for the times you can work.

This is a team effort and you can work when you are available. We also need people to provide lunch for the workers.

From our Session:

The following items are highlights from the March 22, 2017 Stated Session Meeting

1. The minutes of the Stated Meeting of January 17, 2017, the Congregational Meeting of January 29, 2017 and the Congregational Meeting of March 19, 2017 were approved.
2. Our membership increased to 81 when Jackie and Bob Naumann joined.
3. Greg Vogel reported on the Stated meeting of North Alabama Presbytery (NAP) which was held on February 18, 2017. The primary issues discussed were to change the title of a pastor from "Teaching Elder" to "Minister of the Word and Sacrament", and to drop the requirement of Baptism before one could participate in a service of Holy Communion.
4. The Session voted to approve the recommendation from the Finance Committee to move approximately \$213,000 of our savings into mutual funds to serve as a financial reserve equal to approximately one year's operating expenses and to use the balance of savings – approximately \$235,000, to reduce our mortgage by about two-thirds. It was agreed that Turner Matthews would present this information to the Congregation as an announcement on March 26.
5. Stu Strong reported that the Habitat for Humanity house that our Session voted to support will be started on April 4, 2017 and is expected to be completed on June 24. If you would like to volunteer to help in any way (not just swinging a hammer) please contact Greg Vogel or Stu Strong.
6. The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, May 17, 2017 at 4:30 pm.

Stu Strong
Clerk of Session



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Sunday School 8:45 am, Worship Service 10:00 am

Facebook: St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Decatur AL

www.standrewdecatour.org