

From the Pastor ...Rev. Dr. Darryl Goldman

Dear Church Family,

The people of the Texas Gulf Coast heard the warnings to evacuate. Many left, jamming the highways heading inland. Many stayed, knowing such warnings have come and gone in the past. And, truth be told, we would all be tempted to do just that, knowing our photos, the furniture passed down from grandparents, computers and all those other possessions we hold so dear, would be lost. Maybe if we stay behind, we can save what is most important.

This brings back painful memories. We have a son, Justin, who lived in town in New Orleans when Katrina hit. He is disabled and had no means of escaping the city so he stayed. Like Hurricane Harvey, the storm was not that bad but the flooding came higher than anyone expected. FEMA was unprepared. We were unprepared.

His apartment building lost power and water, and downtown closed. Without phone service, Justin disappeared. Several days later, I received a call from him. He had found a pay-phone that worked and described where he thought he was.

A policeman took him in, realizing Justin needed more help than some. He had quite a few others in-tow also. Without food or water available, the lawman broke into a Seven-Eleven and for a couple days they lived off chips and whatever else was there. The floors were flooded so they slept on counters, shelves and boxes.

Upon getting the call, Linda and I immediately got into our car to go get Justin. We decided it would be smart to take a gas can. Would you believe the only gas can I could find in the Huntsville area was a \$100 at a hardware store in Madison? We arrived on the skirts of New Orleans that night, but the police roadblock would not allow us into the city. I tried to explain the urgency but the policeman said,

"You could get yourselves killed by thugs, mister." And he was not being nice about it.

"There's not much law there right now. Go home."

Justin had told us about one back road where people were getting in near his location. First, since all gas stations were closed, we went to Baton Rouge on fumes and filled up with gas before heading south to look for the back road into south New Orleans.

Miraculously, without boring you with all the details, we found the Seven Eleven and Justin. He was glad to see us and we were relieved to see him. We jammed another family into our car though we hated to leave the others, and took them to the Baton Rouge airport. All the while we wondered why the government could not bring people out. They say they will do better this time.

Memories. The people wading through the current disaster in Texas will have memories –some of miracles and others of tragic loss. We pray for them all, send fans and plastic bags, and maybe donate on-line to the Red Cross. Mostly, we feel helpless, and ask God to intervene for them.

Maybe that's how Daniel felt when he prayed for the exiles, he added, "We do not make requests of you because we are righteous, but because of your great mercy." (Daniel 9:18) Maybe that means we are not so helpless after all for we can pray to a powerful God who makes a difference, and we can send stuff, or money, that they will need to recover.

Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us. Psalm 62:8

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

September Birthdays

John Brandon	9/11
Anita Hamblen	9/11
100 Yrs. Young (see note)	
Darryl Goldman	9/14
Sue Mitchell	9/15
Pat Wagner	9/21
Carol Watt	9/24
Joan Jordan	9/24
Teresa Culbert	9/28
Robert Lawton	9/29



September Anniversaries

John & Betty Brandon 9/23

* * * * *

NOTE: Betty Matthew's mother will be 100 yrs young on 9/11. Please take a moment to send her a card:

**Mrs. Anita Hamblen
4506 Windy Hill Road SE
Decatur, AL 35603**



MISSION OPPORTUNITY FEED THE NEED SCHOOL BACKPACKS

To continue with our theme of **Helping Children at Risk**, your Mission Ministry Team is going to be partnering with several churches in the community to provide food through the City-Wide Backpack Food Program again. This is for children who may not otherwise have enough to eat over the weekend. A plastic bag is filled with food and the school puts these bags in their backpack each Friday. If you prefer, we will gladly accept monetary donations. Leave your check in the envelope provided or bring cash to the office during the week.

We are excited to continue this mission again and need your support and continued prayers. Thank you to everyone who helped last year feed the need in our schools--you did a great job!

Food Suggestions:

instant oatmeal	individual cereal boxes
cereal/granola Bars	Pop Tarts
Ramen Noodles	canned soups
canned dinners (spaghetti, chili, stew)	boxed dinners
canned or pouches of tuna or chicken	microwave Mac 'n cheese
Individual packaged snack crackers	small boxes of raisins
microwave popcorn	individual pkg. fruits
fruit roll-ups/snack packs	

Everything must be non-perishable. Packing date TBA.

Joe Duncan Fundraiser

One of our former Youth Group Members, Joe Duncan, needs our help. Due to difficult family circumstances and the fact that he is 18, he was left homeless this summer and has been living with different Presbyterian families in North Alabama Presbytery. These families recently took our NAP teens to the Montreat Youth Conference.

The Presbyterian Children's Home will be opening a new Transition to Adult Living facility in Muscle Shoals on September 1. Joe has been accepted for the program where he will be provided a small apartment and access to services which will support him as he continues to work to finish his GED, find a job, and ultimately attend Northwest-Shoals Community College.

Joe's only possessions are the items that he took to Montreat. In order to help him during this time of transition, the churches in NAP are working to raise money to help him with initial expenses and counseling until he is on his own feet. If you would like to contribute, make out a check to St. Andrew with a note that it is for the Joe Duncan fund. There is an envelope in the office. Your contributions will be tax deductible.

Another upcoming opportunity to help will be to furnish the Muscle Shoals Transition to Adult Living facility with bedding, linens, and other basic items. We will be receiving a list of needed items soon and this will be communicated out when received.

C.A.T.S Visit Decatur Depot and Dot's



We had a very successful CATS trip August 25 to the Decatur Railroad Museum and Dot's for lunch. We had 30 people on our day trip.

Now it is time to look forward to another successful trip, **October 2**. We have planned a tour of the Shiloh Battle Field. We have chartered a bus and need 30 people to fill it. We will begin with an introductory film, have a picnic lunch on the grounds and have a guided tour. The cost will be \$40 for transportation and lunch. Let's fill up the bus for a great day of fellowship.

There will be a sign up sheet in the church office September 14.



**St. Andrew will serve lunch at the
CCC Soup Kitchen on**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

**Volunteers needed to cook cornbread
and desserts. Sign-up on bulletin board.**

**Volunteers needed to prepare food at CCC,
serve, and clean-up. Sign-up on bulletin board.**

Hargrave Class New Bible Study

The Hargrave class will start a study of the "Harmony of the Gospels of Jesus' Ministry in Galilee." The study will start in September and end in the early Spring. It will be based on the Book of Matthew, with the simultaneous study of the parallel accounts in the other Gospels. We will be using the NIV Harmony of the Gospels Bible. Join us in Room 122 at 8:45 am.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN TO BEGIN NEW YEAR



The Presbyterian Women of St. Andrew will begin their 2017-2018 year on Tuesday, September 5th at 7:00 PM in the church fellowship hall. Our Bible study this year is "Cloud of Witnesses", a study of the community of Christ in Hebrews. Nellie Gates will lead the lesson and Cerese Sweeley will be the hostess. Please join us on the first Tuesday of each month from September through May as we study God's word, work on projects to help women and children both globally and locally, and share fellowship.

This year's study books are \$11 (\$10 for the book and \$1 for shipping) and will be available in the church office after worship on Sundays and at the first meeting on September 5th, while supplies last. Checks should be made out to Linda Grissom.





You don't want to miss these Christian novels!

Three best selling novels in one book! **The Postcard**, **The Crossroad**, and **Sanctuary** written by Beverly and David Lewis. These three books will lure you deep into the fascinating world of the Amish with tales of family drama you won't soon forget.

The Beautiful Pretender, A Medieval Fairy Tale by Melanie Dickerson. A story full of an action-packed

journey, danger, intrigue, and romance. You just can't put the book down when reading.

The British Brides Collection by Kelly Hake, Bonnie Blythe, Pamela Griffin, Gail Martin, Tamela Murray and Jill Stengl. Nine romances from the Home of Austen and Dickens. Spanning 500 years of history in the British Isles, nine inspiring romance stories take you through English gardens, around London ballrooms, and within Scottish castles. Encounter high drama and epic romances of the brides on the way to the altar. Will they make it to the altar? If so, will they survive with their faith intact?



Wednesday Activities

6:00 pm Potluck Supper

6:30 pm Classes for ALL ages

7:30 pm Choir Rehearsal

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10 AFTER WORSHIP

There will be a special called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 10, following the worship service. The purpose for this meeting is for the election of Elders and Nomination Committee.

SEEKER'S CLASS NEW BIBLE STUDY

On September 3, the Seekers Sunday school class began the book **Parables from the Back Side**, Vol. 1: **Bible Stories with a Twist**. J. Ellsworth Kalas offers a new understanding of twelve of Jesus' parables by viewing them through the eyes of a minor or unsympathetic character. Chapter titles include: When the Good Samaritan Is Bad News; God Called a Party, but Nobody Came; The Sad Story of the Embarrassed Farmers; Love Always Wins...Sometimes; Why Doesn't God Like Religious People?; Pardon My Insistence; The Prodigal Who Stayed at Home; A Case for the Un-hired Hand; I Wish I Could Sell You More and others.

Come join us in Rm. 111 as we look for God's message to us through these familiar parables.



Maranatha Camp and Conference Center, Inc

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Maranatha Camp and Conference Center - update after 2017 camp sessions

It's been a year since the North Alabama Presbytery entrusted the operation of Camp Maranatha to a newly constituted, 501c3 non-profit, The Maranatha Camp and Conference Center, Inc.

As our first summer camp season draws to a conclusion, we're happy to report Maranatha has met its operating goals. Its youth ministry has been reinvigorated and its 50 - plus years facility has been refreshed. The camp mission continues by connecting people to God through His creation, so that they may be transformed for God's purpose in their lives.

Camp Maranatha's 2017 story is best told through the voices of those we've served, the campers and teen counselors who have breathed life into our quiet setting on the shores of Lake Guntersville.

Was it the "Best Summer Ever" as we promised? You be the judge:

Two young boys from totally different economic circumstances (one at Camp on a full-ride scholarship) became the best of friends. They were tied at the hip daily with Big Buddy, their giant of a counselor who said his experience with the boys was his "best week" of the summer, too.

A non-Christian enrolled his son in Camp without knowing it was a Christian-based facility. The father reluctantly let him stay but was concerned about what he would be exposed to. The son not only said it was his best week ever, he talked two friends, also non-Christian, into joining him for two additional weeks. He knew the full story of Joseph by week two, and said he wished that "Jesus could be friends with our God."

A high school junior from Corinth, Mississippi, wanted leadership training and found the Camp on-line. From modest means, she solicited funds from companies in Corinth and found one which covered her Counselor in Training Scholarship. Shy and reserved in her first week - by the end of her second week she could be found at the front of the activities, leading campers and counselors alike.

And finally, a stamp of approval from our neighbors:

For three weeks, kids who use a nearby house on Lake Guntersville heard the noise, laughter, and they saw our campers enjoying waterfront activities. They eventually got their Dad to sign them up for the fourth week to be a part of the experience.

What lies ahead for 2018? The Maranatha board has approved director Chase Epps' plan to expanded the summer camp to 8 weeks. In this extended time we will be able to provide the camp experience for more children and counselors.

If you haven't "liked us" on Facebook please do so. Also, let your family and friends know that Camp Maranatha is alive and well. We're headed down the path to another 50 years of sharing God's word in a pastoral setting.

Maranatha connects you to Gods creation; transforms you for God's purpose



SEPTEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Communion Sunday	4 Labor Day Office Closed	5 7:00p Pres. Women	6 Noon—Brown Bag Lunch 5:00p Worship Committee 6:00p Supper 6:30p Classes 7:30p Choir	7	8	9
10 6:00 pm Church Picnic at Rhodes Ferry Park	11 7p Chapel Hill HOA	12	13 6:00p Supper 6:30p Classes 7:30p Choir	14	15	16 10a-4p Decatur Music Club
17	18 Soup Kitchen	19	20 4:30p Session 6:00p Supper 6:30p Classes 7:30p Choir <div>Bonita on vacation.</div>	21	22	23 Rotary Club (S. Mitchell) 8a-4p
24	25 <div>Bonita on vacation.</div>	26 Garden Club 9:30a (T. Culbert) 10a Page Turners	27 6:00p Supper 6:30p Classes 7:30p Choir	28	29	30 12n-4p Decatur Music Club



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“Where God’s Love Transforms Lives”

The Chronicle is published monthly by St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. To submit articles by email, please submit to: churchoffice@standrewdecatur.org by the 22nd of each month.

September Volunteer Schedule

	9/3	9/10	9/17	9/24
Liturgists	Linda Webster	Ceil Hydrick	Harold Culbert	Stu Strong
Ushers	John Abbott Stu Strong John Newbill Harold Moore J. Brandon, alt.	Don Foster Turner Matthews John Shull Ed Wyle F. Webster, alt	Doug Coshow Dan Watt Bob Naumann ? George Hilleary, alt.	Dave Ellerbe Harold Culbert Greg Vogel Cecile Hydrick Jim Boyd, alt.
Children's Message	None/Communion	Rev. Goldman	Shelly Shull	Rev. Goldman
Nursery	B.J. Breeding	Jackie Naumann	Sylvia Newbill	Barb Mouton
Wednesday Host	9/6 Vogels	9/13 Naumanns	9/20 L. Grissom	9/27 Meiers
Communion September 3	Preparer: John & Sylvia Newbill	Communion Servers: Ceil Hydrick, Greg Vogel, Harold Culbert, Stu Strong, Nellie Gates		