

From Your Pastor ...Rev. Dr. Darryl Goldman

When I agreed to remain at St. Andrew until Christmas Eve, Charles Dickens' line went through my head, "It was the best of times and the worst of times." What a time to say "goodbye," when we have so much to celebrate. And, wasn't that what happened with the last pastor? That wasn't much fun. Departing at Christmas seems poor timing, as another writer wrote, "You picked a fine time to leave me, Lucille!"

There is no good time to say "so long" to people you love and you are certainly lovable people. You warmly welcomed me despite my peculiar preaching style, curious stories of dubious reliability (they are true), and a bizarre penchant for expressing myself through recalcitrant puppet characters. Tommy and Phil were culpable in throwing anything on-screen without question.

I'm as different from Toby as can be imagined and she was that different from Steve. That's the excitement of wondering what comes next and what better season than Advent to be talking about who is *coming* to this church next? Advent means "the coming," a time of preparation or getting ready. Jesus not only warned against being unready for the future, but he also promised great things will come to believers. I have been impressed by the extraordinary work your church leaders have already done to prepare this church for a bright future.

How do you get ready for Advent-- the coming of the Lord (Christmas and the end times)? You don't get ready by running around in a panic--buying gifts, overpromising, or not taking care of yourself. Neither do you find God's will for your next pastor in anxious activity.

To prepare for the future requires calm and relaxation in God's promises that the future is actually in His hands, not ours. Remember the bridesmaids' lamps? The oil you will need in preparing for your future is the oil of peace and resting--standing on the promises of Christ my Lord, as the hymn goes.

It's no wonder psychiatrists say the greatest period of depression is the Christmas season because when folks are not believers then all this "Good News" stuff rings rather hollow. Secular holidays do little to address the meaning of life and death and beyond. But when you have said to God, "I'm going to just put my trust in you because I can't do it," then, good—even glorious things begin to happen.

It's Advent. An adventure is coming for St. Andrew and for the Goldmans. I don't know where we will be in a year from now and you don't yet know who will be sitting in the pastor's chair, but Jesus said "I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life." John 8:12

So, prepare for the future by slowing down a little, being calm, and recharging your batteries (oil in your lamp). Jeremiah still says it best, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

Darryl



Sharon Thomson	12/10
Tommy Gates	12/17
Jim Wright	12/19



Mike & Marilyn Hinkle	12/20
Dave & Cheryl Ellerbe	12/22



SOUP KITCHEN MONDAY, DECEMBER 3

**We need cornbread, desserts, and VOLUNTEERS.
Call Barb Mouton for details or questions.**

CCC Food Pantry Collection Sunday, Dec. 2

We collect food for the CCC Food Pantry each month on the first Sunday. Of course, you may bring food any time and place it in the shopping cart.

Food Needed: Non-perishables especially flour, sugar, peanut butter, macaroni & cheese, canned vegetables, pasta & sauce, rice, and soups. Please no glass containers.

We also need prescription eye glasses or reading glasses and cases.

Volunteers are also needed for the Clothing Closet on Wednesdays. Call 256-355-8893.

Presbyterian Women's Christmas Luncheon

The Presbyterian Women of St. Andrew will meet on
Tuesday, December 4, at 1130 AM
at O'Charley's Restaurant on the Beltline
for our annual Christmas Gathering. Then we will have
our regular meeting following lunch at the church. All ladies
are invited to join us. Lesson Leader: Barbara Allen,



Candlelight Service & Dinner
Monday, December 24
5:00 PM

The Presbyterian Men will again provide a dinner after the worship service. It is important that you sign-up on the bulletin board or call the church office to make a reservation by Dec. 20.

No cost or need to bring anything.



Wednesday, December 5

Noon in the Church Library

Bring your sack lunch and join us for a time of fellowship. Please call the church office by Tuesday.

Thanks for Giving! We provided 45 Thanksgiving dinners to families in Decatur.





Hanging of the Greens



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Wednesday, December 12
6:30 PM

Join us for a potluck supper at 6:00 PM.

Our children and workers have put in many hours of practice and work on the set.

Come hear their unique way of sharing the gospel! You really don't want to miss this!



Local Mission Project
Percussion Set for the students at
Austinville Elementary School
NEED ONLY \$150

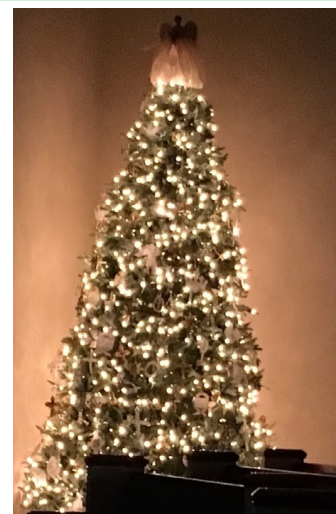
The Missions Committee encourages your contribution to help Dr. Gilbreath. get essential resources for students including a World Drum Kit Package EE. We need only \$150 to purchase this set.

Message from Dr. Gilbreath: "I teach in a Title I school. My kids love music and they struggle academically. This drumming set will help me teach them not only musical concepts, but fluency with language and the mathematical concepts of rhythm. They love to play percussion instruments and to learn to work as a team, which you must do in an African Drumming Circle." You may give to the church and mark for "Drums" Gifts are tax deductible.

Oh Christmas tree, Oh Christmas tree,
How lovely are your branches!

Thank you so much for your donations to purchase our new tree. We will enjoy it for many years to come and decorate it each year to the Glory of God in the Highest!

Thanks to the many who came to set up the tree, the "fluffers," and those who decorated! It was a team effort!



DECATUR'S INAUGURAL CHRISTMAS TREE EVENT



The Enchanted Forest of Decatur is a display of live-cut 7-foot Christmas Trees located at Founders Park across from the Old State Bank in Decatur. This community sponsored "forest" will be open from Dec. 3 to New Year's Day. Every tree will be uniquely decorated by sponsors. A free community event is being planned for Dec. 15th 2-5 p.m. where there will be live music, pictures with Santa, activities and give-a-ways. The trees will be featured during a free community event, "Explore the Forest" on Dec. 15 from 2 to 5 PM in the park. It will include activities for the whole family. Several local groups will perform in the Daikin Amphitheater. Proceeds will benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.



Sunday, December 23, 8:45 AM
Bring a dish to share, drinks provided.
No Sunday School.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL BOOKS HAVE BEEN PURCHASED
FOR YOU FOR THE ADVENT SEASON

The book is "God Lifts the Lowly" based on "Mary's Song of Praise." Please take one per family from the narthex to enjoy this Advent season.

The following items are highlights from the November 14, 2018 Stated Session Meeting:

The minutes of the Stated Meeting of September 19, 2018, the Congregational Meeting of October 14, 2018, and the Called Meeting of November 11, 2018 were approved.

Our membership is now at 79 with the sad passing of Kay Hilleary..

New Committee assignments for Ruling Elders were made for 2019:

Administration: Ed Wyle and Turner Matthews
Building and Grounds: Bob Naumann
Christian Education: B. J. Breeding reporting for John Jordan
Communication: Ceil Hydrick
Finance & Stewardship: Turner Matthews
Member Care: B. J. Breeding
Mission: Greg Vogel
Nominating: Dan Watt
Worship: Nellie Gates
Clerk of Session: Philip Gilbert

Harold Culbert updated the Session on the progress of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

B. J. Breeding reported on the Fall meeting of Presbytery.

We will be contacting Presbytery for them to assign an acting Moderator for our Session once Rev. Goldman leaves at the end of the year.

Dr. Goldman thanked the three Elders who leave the Session at the end of the year, for their service to the congregation. They are: Harold Culbert, Stu Strong, and Linda Webster.

The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 4:30 pm, unless we need to change it to suit our new Moderator.

Stu Strong, Clerk of Session



December

Advent Schedule

Sunday, December 2	First Sunday of Advent Shoeboxes due
Monday, December 3	Soup Kitchen at CCC
Tuesday, December 4	11:30 AM PW's Christmas Luncheon at O'Charley's Lesson will follow lunch at the church.
Wednesday, Dec. 5	Brown Bag Lunch with Pastor at noon Regular Wednesday activities
Sunday, December 9	Second Sunday of Advent
Wednesday, December 12	6:00 PM Potluck Supper (bring extra for visitors) 6:30 PM Children's Christmas Program 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal
Sunday, December 16	Third Sunday of Advent, Choir Program at 10:00 am
Wednesday, December 19	No Church Activities
Sunday, December 23	Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:45 AM Christmas Brunch (no Sunday School) Christmas Joy Offering Dr. Jeff and Amelia Adams will be singing during worship
Monday, December 24	5:00 PM Christmas Eve Dinner will follow, please sign-up on bulletin board.
Wednesday, December 26	No church activities
Sunday, December 30	8:45 AM Sunday School; Worship 10:00 AM

Christmas Joy Offering

Sunday, December 23, we will be collecting our annual Christmas Joy Offering. Advent is a time of anticipation and promise of thanksgiving and celebration. Every year, we pour out our gratitude by giving to the Christmas Joy Offering which supports church workers and their families in need and nurtures the promise of our future racial ethnic leaders.

- ♦ 50% provides critical financial assistance to church leaders in need.
- ♦ 50% supports opportunities for future leaders at Presbyterian racial ethnic schools.

Greg Vogel, Mission Chair



The Chronicle is published monthly by St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. To submit articles by email send to: churchoffice@standrewdecatur.org by the 22nd of each month. You may also submit articles in print to the church office Monday through Thursday. 8:45 am—3:00 pm.

Rev. Dr. Darryl Goldman
3310 Danville Rd. SW
Phone: 256-355-6310
Email: churchoffice@standrewdecatur.org

Sunday School 8:45 am
Worship Service 10:00 am
Facebook: St. Andrew Presbyterian Church,
Decatur AL
www.standrewdecatur.org



December Ministry Teams

December	2	9	16	23	30
Liturgists	Stuart Strong	Samantha Simmons	B.J. Breeding	Dan Watt	Stu Strong
Ushers	John Abbott Stu Strong Harold Moore John Newbill	Don Foster John Shull Greg Vogel Ed Wyle Fate Webster, alt	Bob Naumann Jackie Naumann Sylvia Newbill Harold Culbert Shelly Shull, alt	Fate Webster Bob Naumann W.C. Sweeley Jim Boyd T. Matthews, alt	
Youth Message	Communion	Rev. Goldman	Nellie Gates	Rev. Goldman	Ceil Hydrick
Nursery	Barb Mouton	Jackie Naumann	Sherrie Nelson	Sylvia Newbill	Lee Zeiher
Wednesday Host	12/5 W.C. Sweeley	12/12 the Naumann's	No Activities	No Activities	
Communion Dec. 2	Preparer: Linda Grissom	Intinction Server: Stuart Strong,			

