

From the Pastor ~ Nothing Lasts Forever

During one of our winter visits to Chicago to visit our family, I noticed a sign on a store marquee that read “No winter lasts forever, and no spring has ever skipped its turn.” No doubt whoever posted that message meant it as a word of encouragement for residents who are sick to death of snow and below freezing temperatures. But the message is also appropriate for where we find ourselves as we journey toward Easter morning.

Lent doesn’t last forever. However, it is a very blessed time—a gift out of ordinary time—in which we are given the opportunity to assess our spiritual growth. Are there ways we can better live into discipleship? Are there practices we can adopt that draw us closer to God? Are there habits, prejudices, injuries that we need to release which harm our bodies, souls, and hearts? Are there personal preferences that this congregation needs to let go in order to prepare itself fully for the next pastor? Just as we clip old brush and rake away the debris of winter, we can “spring clean” our spiritual lives as well. No winter (or interim period) lasts forever.

And no spring ever skipped its turn. In just a couple of weeks, we will be celebrating what makes us different from all other religions—our belief in the Lord of Life, the Savior who defeated sin and death. But we aren’t there yet. We still need to remember how fickle we can be, so on **Palm Sunday**, our cheers of welcome will turn into jeers of betrayal. Then as we enter the darkness of Holy Week, we will gather on **Maundy Thursday** to share a spiritual meal and strip a table, reminding us of Jesus being stripped of his dignity and life. On **Good Friday**, we are encouraged to spend some time with the passion story and with the Lord who gave his all for us. And on Saturday, we wait.

Only then can we begin to understand what **Easter Sunday** really means. Only then can we embrace the reality that darkness doesn’t last forever and that the Light, indeed, never, ever, skips its turn. Please join us in the Easter celebration at 10 am. Bring friends, bring family, and come rejoice!

Blessings,
Rosemary

NOTE: A written copy of each week’s sermon is available on the website at www.standrewdecaturn.org.

St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Leaders 2019

Chairperson

Clerk of Session.....	Philip Gilbert
Worship	Nellie Gates
Member Care.....	B. J. Breeding
Education & Spiritual Formation.....	John Jordan
Mission	Greg Vogel
Communications & Outreach	Ceil Hydrick
Administration, Finance & Property.....	Turner Matthews/Ed Wyle
Building/Grounds	Bob Naumann
Nominating.....	Dan Watt
Comptroller	Tommy Gates



Ceil Hydrick	4/7
Connie Lawton	4/7
Doug Coshow	4/22
Greg Vogel	4/22



W.C. & Cerece Sweeley	4/24
-----------------------	------



**The Presbyterian Women of St. Andrew will meet on
Tuesday, April 2, at 10:00 AM
in the church Fellowship Hall**

**Lesson: "God With Us as the Holy Spirit"
Lesson Leader: Group Discussion
John 14:1-31**

Hostess: Bobbie Meier



St. Andrew to Host Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering Tuesday, April 30

The Presbyterian Women of the North Alabama Presbytery will meet for their annual Spring Gathering at St. Andrew on the morning of Tuesday, April 30th. All St. Andrew women are invited to attend. More information about reservations is coming soon.

We will provide morning refreshments and lunch. **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED.** There will be a sign-up sheet on the hall bulletin board beginning on Wednesday, March 6th. We will need morning finger foods, juice, and desserts for lunch, as well as volunteers to help set up the fellowship hall, set the tables, serve lunch, and clean up afterwards.



CHURCH LIBRARY *News*

New in the Library!

In This Moment by Karen Kingsbury

In This Moment is an inspiring, relevant story about the nuances of religious freedom, the cost of the fights, and how a group of determined people just might restore the meaning of faith in today's culture.

This book was given to our library by Bobbie Meier in memory of Katherine Hoppers.

Thank you Bobbie.

The Library Staff



NEW — PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

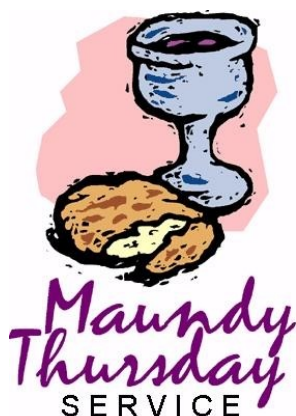
For Hospice Thurs., April 4

9:00 am or 1:00 pm

The prayer shawl ministry begins this Thursday in the church parlor. Please attend whichever time is convenient for you. You need to bring a pair of **U.S. #15 circular needles that are 29"**

long. You will also need **one skein of 100% acrylic yarn** with at least **350 yards**.

I am thrilled at the interest shown and look forward to working with you. Remember, you don't have to know how to knit to be a part of this ministry. **ALL ARE WELCOME**—we will teach you. Crocheting can also be done. If you need instruction for crocheting, please call me. Shelley Vinzant has volunteered to teach those interested in crocheting. Donations of yarn or money for yarn are appreciated as well. Hope to see you Thursday!



**Maundy
Thursday**
SERVICE
6:30 PM
THURSDAY, APRIL 18



CELEBRATE RESURRECTION SUNDAY WITH US!

8:45 AM Bible Study
(for all ages)

10:00 AM Worship

ROCKIN' FOR SUMMER CAMP AT MONTREAT!!!



We have two youth attending the Montreat Youth Conference in July this year, Jonathan Mitchell and Robert Sumner. We are collecting donations now. Jonathan and Robert will be holding a Rock-a-Thon (yes, rocking in rocking chairs) on April 6 from 8:00 am—noon. You may donate before the event or on the day of the event.

You may put your check in the envelope in the church office or in the offering plate and mark "for youth camp."



Bring your canned and boxed food for Easter dinners to give to the CCC for distribution. Food may be placed on the Donation Table by the Fellowship Hall. Please bring 1 large can or 2 small cans if bringing canned food. Potatoes and dessert should be boxed items, one per dinner. DEADLINE APRIL 7. We plan to give 30 dinners this year. Items needed:

Canned Corn

Canned Beans

Canned Fruit

Boxed Potatoes

Canned Yams

Dessert Mix (if you bring a cake, bring a frosting)

Donations for hams may be left in the church office or put in the offering, marked "Ham." We will pack dinners Wednesday, April 10, after Bible study.



C.A.T.S. TRIP ALABAMA MUSIC HALL OF FAME, MARCH 12

Fun was had by all—next time join us!

Next trip is June 21 to the
Veterans Memorial and Museum
in Huntsville.

Lunch at Rosie's Cantina

Mortgage Payoff Update: After our mortgage payment in March, we have a balance of \$30,693.87. Join us in celebrating the payoff of the mortgage in 2019.

Session Highlights

The St. Andrew Session met on Wednesday, March 20, for its bi-monthly Stated Session meeting. Here are the highlights:

- ♦ St. Andrew membership at 77
- ♦ Ed Wyle and Pastor McMahan to research church safety measures
- ♦ Church doors to be locked at 10:15 am on Sundays approved
- ♦ Buildings and Grounds to install carbon monoxide monitors
- ♦ St. Andrew Gift-Giving Policies approved
- ♦ Maundy Thursday Worship at St. Andrew approved
- ♦ Removal of blue hymnals approved
- ♦ Permission for Rev. Peggy McClure to preach March 31 and May 12 approved
- ♦ Update on PNC received
- ♦ Purchase of CCLI and OneLicense (copyright licenses) approved

Next stated meeting will be held May 8, 2019, at 4:30 PM.

Church Security Update

At its March meeting, the session approved the following actions:

- To keep all doors to the sanctuary open during worship
- To remind the head usher to sit in the vestibule during worship
- To double-check with the nursery worker that all doors near the nursery are locked once worship begins
- To lock the outside doors to the vestibule at 10:15 am.

Please do not hesitate to come to worship if you are running late and the doors are locked. The head usher will be in the vestibule to let you in.



Thank you for your contributions!
\$100 was donated in the past few weeks.
Banks are available in the Narthex.

CALLING ALL YOUTH!
Youth Event with First Presbyterian in Florence, Sunday, April 28

Event: Escape Room in Florence

Leave St. Andrew after church, bring money for lunch. Arrive at First Presbyterian at 2:00 pm.

Event ends about 5:00 pm to come back to the church. Please contact Tom Meier if interested in going by Sunday, April 21, so we can arrange transportation.



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—1:00 pm.

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

April Ministry Teams

Thank you for serving!

APRIL	7	14	21	28
Liturgists	Turner Matthews	Greg Vogel	Dan Watt	B.J. Breeding
Ushers	D. Ellerbe C. Ellerbe B. Mouton D. Foster	B. Naumann J. Naumann J. Shull S. Strong	G. Vogel H. Moore E. Wyle B. Wyle	W.C. Sweeley C. Sweeley S. Newbill J. Newbill
Nursery	C. Ellerbe	J. Jordan	B. Mouton	J. Naumann
Wednesday Host	4/3 Barb and Addi	4/10 B.J. Breeding	4/17 No Activities	4/24 Naumann's
Communion April 7	Preparer: Linda Grissom	Communion Servers: C. Hydrick, G. Vogel, T. Matthews, B. Naumann, N. Gates		