

From the Pastor ~ An Invitation to Prayer

Happy Easter Season! Easter Day may be over, but we continue celebrating the Easter Season through Pentecost Sunday on June 9. We see new life springing up around us, and we reaffirm our faith in the very real, bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ as he continued to do God's work, promising us the companionship and guidance of the Holy Spirit after Jesus returned to God.

So, what can we do in this special time period? We can pray! I, and the St. Andrew Session, invite all of you into **Forty Days of Prayer**. Beginning on May 1 through Pentecost Sunday, June 9, we will be praying together from the book *The Sailboat Church: Helping Your Church Rethink Its Mission and Purpose*, by Rev. Joan Gray. The author's premise is that sometimes we "row" our churches, thinking their effectiveness depends solely on our hard work, and then we wonder why nothing happens, when, in fact, if we raise the sails, the Holy Spirit will help blow us along. We have to ask for and be open to that Spirit.

Each week, Bonita will send out the prayers for each day of that week and you are invited to pray along for this particular congregation, St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. Part of this prayer time will be dedicated to the PNC as a sign of our support for their work. They have specifically asked for us to lift up these prayer requests:

The PNC covets prayers that the Holy Spirit speaks to us with clear guidance to the person God has chosen to lead St. Andrew's ministry. We ask that we are able to listen with wisdom, patience, unity, diligence, and persistence and without prejudice, bias, and pre-conceived notions.

We ask for prayers that God keeps us from being discouraged with lack of progress and the process even at the times we seem to have to go back to square one and start over again.

We would also ask for prayers that God touch the heart of the servant that He has chosen to lead St. Andrew and encourage them to seek us as we seek them.

This is also a time to ask the Holy Spirit where and how it wants to guide you and to pray for those on the St. Andrew Prayer List and for other concerns, or thanksgivings, you have for this wonderful community of people that Christ has called to be His Church here in Decatur. If you would like to read *The Sailboat Church*, it is available on Amazon at <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B00JBC1Z70/ref=dp-kindle-redirect?encoding=UTF8&btkr=1>. I highly recommend it for Sunday School class, and I'm sure you will hear some preaching from it.

Christ is alive, and Christ's Spirit is among us! Please commit to this season of prayer.

Easter blessings,
Pastor Rosemary

NOTE: A written copy of each week's sermon is available on the website at www.standrewdecat.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



Milton Bridges	May 1
Ed Wyle	May 15
Amy Burks	May 19
Bobbie Meier	May 24
Jane Porter	May 29



Bob & Jackie Naumann	May 16
Tommy & Nellie Gates	May 17
Jim & Virginia Wright	May 24
John & Joan Jordan	May 30



**The Presbyterian Women of St. Andrew will meet on
Tuesday, May 7 at 10:00 AM
in the church Fellowship Hall**

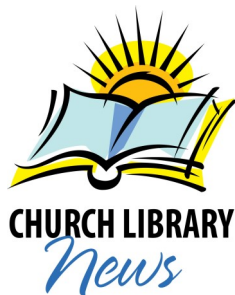
**Lesson: "God With Us "
Lesson Leader: Barb Mouton
Matt. 18:15-20 and Matt. 28:16-20
Hostess: Linda Grissom**

Gift and Memorial Policy

For several years the Finance Committee and Session have worked to make the finances of the church visible to the congregation. At the March Session meeting, a new policy was approved to clarify the disposition of funds given to the church as memorials. We want to continue to encourage these gifts, but want to clarify what happens to the funds. A copy of the policy is in the office and can be reviewed.

The new policy requires/allows that:

1. A database will be perpetually maintained of each memorial given.
2. The Session will choose several projects each year as suggestions for memorials.
3. A memorial donation may be directed to one of the special annual projects; or if not directed, the donation will go to the general fund of the church.
4. A memorial may be requested to be given to a special cause by special request to the Session. The Session must approve such a request.
5. All existing special funds and all future special funds will sunset in 5 years unless extended by the Session.



To Heaven and Back, written by Mary C. Neal, MD
 This is Mary's remarkable story of her life's spiritual journey and what happened as she moved from life to death to eternal life, and back again.

7 Lessons from Heaven, written by Mary C. Neal, MD
 In 7 Lessons from Heaven, Mary takes the readers deeper into her experience, which included meeting Jesus face-to-face, encounters with angels, and a journey into a "City of Lights."

The Faith Club, by Priscilla Warner, Suzanne Oliver, and Ranya Idliby. A ground-breaking book about Americans searching for faith and mutual respect.

Thank you Betty Brandon for donating these books. Stop by the Library and get one this week!

The Library Staff



**NEW — CARING HANDS MINISTRY
 (Shawls & Lap Blankets for Hospice)
 Thursdays at 1:00 pm**

The Caring Hands (previously Prayer Shawl) ministry meets each Thursday in the church library. We have added making fleece lap blankets. You don't have to know how to sew or knit to be a part of this ministry. The lap blankets are made of fleece and you just have to know how to cut and tie to make one! The

Loomers (bag Ladies) are no longer meeting at this time. NO bags needed.

ALL ARE WELCOME—we will teach you to do whichever craft you wish to do. Donations for yarn, fleece material, needles, labels, etc. are appreciated. An envelope is in the church office. Hope to see you on Thursdays! Come join the fellowship

Barb Wyle



**ICE CREAM SOCIAL
 SUNDAY, MAY 19 AT 5:00 PM
 AT ST. ANDREW**

**Bring ice cream or a treat to go with ice cream
 (brownies, cookies, sprinkles, or toppings.)**

Don't forget a chair!





This Month's
ACTIVITIES

Wed, May 1 5:00p Worship Committee
6:00p Potluck Supper
6:30p Bible Study and Classes
7:30p Choir Rehearsal

Thus, May 2 1:00p Caring Hands Ministry
Sun, May 5 One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
Tues, May 7 10:00a Presbyterian Women
Wed, May 8 4:30p Session
6:00p Potluck Supper
6:30p Bible Study and Classes
7:30p Choir Rehearsal

Thurs, May 9 1:00p Caring Hands Ministry
Mon, May 13 10:00a Computer Class
Wed, May 15 6:00p Potluck Supper
6:30p Bible Study and Classes
7:30p Choir Rehearsal

Thurs, May 16 1:00p Caring Hands Ministry
Sun, May 19 5:00p Ice Cream Social
Wed, May 22 4:30p Finance Committee Mtg.
6:00p Potluck Supper
6:30p Bible Study and Classes
7:30p Choir Rehearsal

Thurs, May 23 1:00p Caring Hands Ministry

Our Summer Wednesday schedule begins on May 29. No activities on Wednesday, May 29.

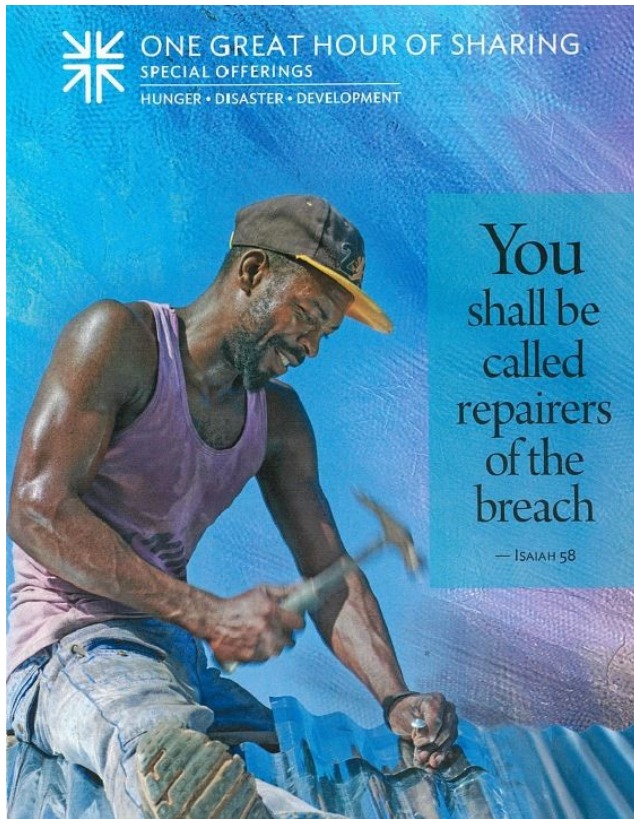
We will meet on the fourth Wednesday of June, July, and August. Save these dates: June 26, July 24. and August 28



CALLING ALL KIDS!
VBS is coming

SAVE THE DATE!
SATURDAY, JULY 13
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
AGES 4 – 12 YRS.





One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

**Sunday, May 5
Morning Worship**

All around the world we see people whose homes and even loved one have been washed away by hurricanes and floods, people trapped in systems of injustice and oppression, and people who will go to bed hungry or without a roof over their heads.

This offering is the single, largest way that Presbyterians join together to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world. Each gift helps improve the lives of people in challenging situations.

This offering lets us come together to open our doors—as well as our hearts—to share the love of Christ through our ministries of justice, compassion, and joy.


Searching the Web?

**Got Computer Questions?
We've Got Answers!**

 Word Processing?

 Using Social Media?

 Spreadsheets?

 Presentations?

Need computer help? Join us **Monday, May 13 from 10AM- 12 Noon** at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. This is the first of our monthly small group meetings for shared learning regarding computers, software applications, etc. We will have experienced users on hand to answer your questions. Call 256 355 6310 or email churchoffice@standrewdecatour.org for details



The Chronicle is published monthly by St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. To submit articles by email send to: churchoffice@standrewdecaturn.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@standrewdecaturn.org

Rev. Rosemary McMahan, Interim Pastor
 Sunday School 8:45 am
 Worship Service 10:00 am
 Facebook: St. Andrew Presbyterian Church,
 Decatur AL

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Our Rock-a-Thon for Youth to go to camp raised \$1,320.
 Thanks to all who gave for this worthy investment in the lives of our youth.

May Ministry Teams

MAY	5	12	19	26
Liturgists	Philip Gilbert	Nellie Gates	Ceil Hydrick	Bob Naumann
Ushers	H. Culbert H. Moore D. Coshow S. Strong	C. Ellerbe J. Naumann B. Wyle S. Newbill	D. Foster B. Mouton B. Matthews G. Vogel	J. Shull S. Shull J. Newbill S. Newbill
Nursery	B. Wyle	S. Newbill	J. Shull	S. Shull
Wednesday Host	5/1 Nellie Gates	5/8 need host	5/15 need host	5/22 the Naumanns
Communion May 5	Preparer: Linda Grissom	Communion Servers: Ed Wyle, B.J. Breeding, Philip Gilbert, Dan Watt, Nellie Gates		