

## ***From the Interim Pastor: "Letting Go"***



Recently I spotted a beautiful image and thought on Facebook: a photograph of red and gold leaves drifting to the ground with a caption that read: ***"The trees are about to show us how lovely it is to let things go."*** Letting go is surely what happens in Autumn as the trees release their foliage and then are left with bare and empty limbs.

The letting go of leaves is a metaphor for each one of our lives. Letting go seems to be a constant, no matter who we are. We "let go" of being single when we marry. We "let go" of being a couple when we have children. We "let go" of parenthood when our children grow up and leave home. We "let go" of our nuclear families when our children marry. We "let go" of the agility of our bodies as we age. We "let go" of identity when we retire, and on and on with all the other releases, "letting go" of loved ones as we journey toward our own departures from this earth.

Jesus Christ knew about letting go. He let go of his divine nature to become one of us, something we will reflect upon during Advent. He let go of popularity, of approval, of acclaim in order to preach the truth of God's unconditional love. He let go of family in order to follow his ministry, and he let go of his own life in an action that demonstrated his grace-filled acceptance of us. Each of Christ's letting go's brought him closer and closer to God. Each time he let go of the expectations and the rewards of his culture, he did so with ultimate trust in the providence of God.

This Autumn, as we head toward the holidays, is a time to ask ourselves what we are still holding onto with both hands that may be keeping us from growing in closeness to God. Might it be a resentment? A constant worry? A lack of forgiveness? A disappointment? A self-righteousness? A personal agenda? A remorse or guilt? An unresolved grief? A lack of compassion for self or others? A sense of self-worth? Possessions and riches? A fear of the future? A harmful habit? Something else? I invite you to take whatever you are clinging tightly to before God and to imagine the tree letting its leaf drift slowly to the ground so that the tree can be prepared in the spring to bud with new life. God desires that same new life for you. It's up to you, and to me, to trust and to discover the loveliness of letting go.

With blessings,

Pastor Rosemary

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Reminder: Pledge cards will be mailed out soon and collected on **Sunday, November 17**, during worship.

*NOTE: An audio and written copy of each week's sermon is available on the website at [www.standrewdecatur.org](http://www.standrewdecatur.org).*

<b>St. Andrew Elders &amp; Ministry Leaders 2019.....Chairperson</b>	
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



Jean Coshow	11/2
Tom Meier	11/7
Faye Anderson	11/17
Barbara Allen	11/21
John Newbill	11/23
B.J. Breeding	11/28



Bob & Connie Lawton	11/1
Don & B.J. Breeding	11/16
John & Shelly Shull	11/17
Dan & Carol Watt	11/29

### JOIN US EACH WEDNESDAY!

**5:30 PM Potluck Supper**  
**6:00 PM Philippians Bible Study/Children's Classes**  
**7:00 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal**

### **NOVEMBER 6, "ELDER LAW"**

**Our speaker will be Connie Glass, CELA, Elder Law Firm of Connie Glass, PC**

**November 13 and 20: Study of Philippians**



### **From the Library Staff**

Thank you for your donations. However, we have no more shelf space. We are in the process of purging and cleaning shelves. Please do not donate any more books until further notice.



**CARING HANDS MINISTRY**  
**(Shawls & Lap Blankets for hospice and hats for children this winter)**  
**Join us Thursday, November 14 at 1:00 pm**

ALL ARE WELCOME! No skill needed, we will teach you.

Donations for yarn, fleece material, needles, labels, etc. are appreciated.  
An envelope is available in the office.



***Thanksgiving Meal Collection***

Our yearly Thanksgiving Meal project is in progress! Together, we will provide Thanksgiving meals for local families. Below are the items needed for the meals. A designated area at the Donation Location is set up for the items. Thank you for your continued support.

- Corn - 2 regular or 1 large can
- Green Beans - 2 regular or 1 large can
- Candied Yams - 2 regular cans or 1 large can
- Cranberry Sauce - 1 regular can
- Cornmeal - 2 lb. bag (or larger)
- Instant Potatoes (no fresh potatoes please)
- Boxed Dessert Mix (If bringing cake, bring frosting.)

Turkey donations may be made in the office. Make check payable to St. Andrew and place in envelope provided. **The deadline is Sunday, November 17.**

Greg Vogel, Mission Chair

**As the advent season approaches, it is once again time to be thinking about placing your poinsettia order in memory of or in honor of the special people in your life. The cost is \$10 each plant. The deadline to order is Sunday, November 17. There is an order sheet in the church office. Please make checks payable to the church. You may take your poinsettia home following the Christmas Eve service.**



**SUPPORT THE CCC WHEN YOU BUY GROCERIES**

The CCC is now teaming up with Kroger to offer you a way to automatically support their ministries. Go to [www.kroger.com/communityrewards](http://www.kroger.com/communityrewards), register and enroll, choosing Committee on Church Cooperation as your charity to receive reward points. Save money and support our programs that assist the needy with basic needs in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**Food and clothing drive on November 3, from Noon to 3:00 PM at Walmart Supercenter on Spring Avenue. There will be volunteers standing outside Walmart to accept donations of canned food and clothing items.**

Committee on Church Cooperation (CCC), Isabella Armstrong

### Prayers for Wholeness



The opportunity for communal Prayers for Wholeness will be offered Sunday, Nov. 3, after worship. This is a time when those who would like to be prayed for and/or anointed with oil are invited to come forward. The congregation is asked to pray for these individuals as well. If you cannot get to church but would like prayers for wholeness, please let the pastor know, and she and a member of the Prayer Team will gladly come to your home. The power of prayer is a precious gift from God and a beautiful gift to give each other.



The children and youth are collecting your loose change (and more) for the "No Kid Hungry" project this school year. You may add your change each Wednesday to the box in the fellowship hall. Banks are also available in the narthex for you to take home and fill if you like. Thank you Samantha and Addi for facilitating this.

**Help us change a kid's life!**



### Decatur Civic Chorus Concert & Reception

Thursday, November 14, 7:00 PM

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church

\$10 at the door

Theme: "Fly Me to the Moon"  
in celebration of the 50th anniversary of  
the moon landing



### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Tuesday, November 5, 10:00 AM

"Words of Love: Keep Sabbath"

Exodus 20:8-11; Deut. 5:12-15; Mark 2:23-28

Leader: Barb Mouton

Hostess: Cerese Sweeley

**ALL ladies are invited to join us to for this of study and fellowship!**

### Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

Please continue to keep the PNC in prayer as this team of faithful volunteers give countless hours searching and praying for the next called pastor for St. Andrew. Let them know you are praying for them and that they have your support. Team members are Harold Culbert (chair); Faye Anderson; BJ Breeding; Joan Jordan; Turner Matthews, and Stu Strong.

### November Upcoming Events

#### Nov. 2 **CHANGE YOUR CLOCK!**

- Nov. 5: 10:00a Presbyterian Women's Meeting
- Nov. 6 Garden Club (B. Mouton)  
5:30p Potluck Supper  
**6:00p Elder Law**  
and youth activities  
7:00p Choir Rehearsal
- Nov. 10 10:00a Rev. Doug Marshall, President and CEO of the Presbyterian Home for Children will be our speaker.
- Nov. 13: 5:30p Potluck Supper  
6:00p Philippians Study & youth activities  
7:00P Choir Rehearsal
- Nov. 14: 1:00p Caring Hands  
7:00p Civic Chorus Concert & reception \$10 at the door
- Nov. 20: 4:00p Session Meeting  
5:30p Potluck Supper  
6:00p Philippians Study and youth activities  
7:00p Choir
- Nov. 27 No Activities
- Nov. 28 Happy Thanksgiving

Wednesday, November 20 will be our last meeting for the Fall Semester. Enjoy this free time with your families. We will resume Wednesday activities on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.



### Wednesday Wisdom

### Each Wednesday at 6:00 PM

**October 2**

#### **BRAIN HEALTH—USE IT OR LOSE IT**

*Marsha Farrell, BSN, M-BC, CHPN. Marsha Care Consulting, LLC*

**October 9**

#### **BEAUTIFUL SUCCESSFUL AGING**

*Pam Frazier, Integrative Nutrition Health Coach—  
Emmaus Wellness*

**October 30**

#### **UNDERSTANDING AUTISM**

*Laura Frederick, M.S., MFTA, The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center*

**November 6**

#### **ELDER LAW**

*Connie Glass, CELA—Elder Law Firm  
of Connie Glass, PC*

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church  
3310 Danville Rd. SW  
Decatur, AL 35603

Questions? Call 256.355.6310 or [churchoffice@standrewdecatur.org](mailto:churchoffice@standrewdecatur.org)





## Mortgage Burning Service, October 20, 2019



**PRAISE GOD  
FROM WHOM  
ALL  
BLESSINGS  
FLOW!**





## Holiday Hope Chest

The Holiday Hope Chest Project is underway for the 2019 holiday season. The Volunteer Center of Morgan County targets children from low income households who are enrolled in programs throughout the county to receive your generous donations. We are in need of your help!

Target date for completed Chests: Sunday, December 1, 2019

Collection site: Bring to St. Andrew and leave on table with Holiday Hope Chest display.

Distribution: Non-profit agencies serving children in Hartselle/Decatur/Morgan County.

**HOLIDAY HOPE CHESTS:** This project's impact has continued to broaden and over 1,000 boxes are distributed yearly through the efforts of students and community participants who generously respond to serve economically disadvantaged youth throughout Morgan County.

### Simple instructions:

- Wrap top & bottom of shoebox separately with colorful paper.  
(Some prefer plastic boxes which may be lined with colorful tissue).
- Please complete Gift Tag with gender and age, and tape both ends of the tag to the side of the box.  
(Gift tags are available on the display table with instructions.).
- Use your creativity to design a special greeting to place inside the box.
- Fill shoebox with age/gender appropriate items. (See suggestions on table.)
- Place two rubber bands around each box to close securely. (Available on table)
- Please have your Hope Chests returned to the church by Sunday, December 1.
- All the information you need is on the table in the hall.
- If you can't shop but want to contribute to a box, contact Barb Mouton.

Barb Mouton & the Missions Committee



## Presbyterian Home for Children

### **Cookbooks will be available soon! Time to order now!**

Pre-orders are being taken for Presbyterian Home for Children Cookbook which will be delivered before Christmas. This first ever cookbook features 150 recipes from staff, friends, families, alumni, and churches. **Cookbooks are \$15 each. We've ordered 300 copies and when they're gone, they're gone.**

Reserve your copy now. To order, click the PHFC Cookbook Order Form link below, email [cookbookphfc@gmail.com](mailto:cookbookphfc@gmail.com) or call Amanda at (256) 362-2114 ext. 1203. Payment is due when you order. Don't miss out! Order yours TODAY. [PHFC Cookbook Order Form](#)





**The Chronicle** is published monthly by St. Andrew Presbyterian Church. To submit articles by email send to: [churchoffice@standrewdecatur.org](mailto: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](mailto:churchoffice@standrewdecatur.org)**

**Rev. Rosemary McMahan, Interim Pastor**  
**Sunday School 8:45 am**  
**Worship Service 10:00 am**  
**Facebook: St. Andrew Presbyterian Church,**  
**Decatur AL**  
**[www.standrewdecatur.org](http://www.standrewdecatur.org)**



## November Ministry Teams

November	3	10	17	24
<b>Liturgists</b>	Ceil Hydrick	Greg Vogel	Turner Matthews	Bob Naumann
<b>Ushers</b>	S. Strong J. Shull S. Shull B. Matthews	E. Wyle D. Foster B. Wyle B. Mouton	G. Vogel H. Culbert H Moore J. Newbill	S. Strong D. Coshaw C. Ellerbe S. Newbill
<b>Nursery</b>	Shelly Shull	Carol Strong	Betty Matthews	B.J. Breeding
<b>Wednesday Host</b>	11/6	11/13	11/20 B. J. Breeding	
<b>Communion Nov. 3</b>	Preparer: Linda Grissom	Communion Servers: Greg Vogel, Ed Wyle, Ceil Hydrick, B.J. Breeding, Nellie Gates		

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WEDNESDAY POTLUCK SUPPERS**  
**Set-up plates, plastic ware, drinks, and serving spoons. Clean-up kitchen**  
**after the meal. Grab a friend and volunteer!**  
**Sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.**