

From the Interim Pastor: The Waiting Game

Here we are, already into the Season of Advent, with one purple candle burning brightly. The word Advent means “coming” or “arrival” and it defines the four weeks prior to Christmas when we focus on the arrival of the Christ: first as a helpless baby at the miracle of the Nativity; and secondly as the King of Kings who has promised to come again. Advent is a mixture of memory and hope, and it gives us the intentional opportunity to prepare our hearts anew for Jesus Christ.

Advent is also an appropriate time to prepare for a new minister. What an exciting time this is for St. Andrew! Your long waiting has an end in sight! As for memory, you can recall all the leaders who have come before and who have contributed to who you are now and where you are going and give thanks. As for hope, you can place hope in new beginnings, new leadership, new relationships, and new ventures that will grow this congregation both spiritually and numerically.

Waiting doesn't involve being stagnant, though. Waiting gives us the opportunity to do something in preparation for who or what we are waiting. Mary prepared for the birth of her child and visited her cousin Elizabeth while she waited. Zechariah learned to speak sign language and place his trust in God as he waited. Joseph made a decision to stick by Mary's side and endure rumors while he waited. Anna and Simeon continued to worship and praise God in the temple as they waited.

What can you do as you wait for the arrival of the new pastor? Perhaps you can pray for this candidate each day and listen for how you can support and encourage this person. Maybe you need to mend some bridges with other members of the congregation as a spiritual act of unity. Or the Spirit could be leading you to lend support to the Session as they navigate a new year with a new leader. Maybe you know you like things the way they have always been, and you need to ask God for a heart that is open to change. Only you and God know what needs to be done during your waiting. Most of all, I hope you will wait with enthusiasm, a word that means Spirit-filled, trusting in this special call.

What can we all do as we wait for the coming of Christ, celebrating his birth and paying heed to his promise to return to us? Advent encourages us to spend some special time in the manger of our hearts, alone with Christ, being honest before him about who we are and who he is calling us to be. Advent is a time to be more intentional about quality time with our Lord, the best gift we can give as we bow down before him with the gift of our hearts.

I am praying for all of you this Advent Season and in your time of waiting, giving thanks for serving with you and waiting with you.

Blessings,
Rosemary

Called Congregational Meeting Dec. 8

Interim Pastor's Timeline: Pastor Rosemary will be keeping Wed office hours through Dec. 18. Her last day as Interim Pastor is Dec. 25, but she will preach on Jan. 5 and 12th and be available for emergency pastoral care through Jan. 12.

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



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



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



**Come help us
decorate the church!**

Friday, Dec. 6

9:00 AM





CARING HANDS MINISTRY
(Shawls & Lap Blankets for Hospice and hats for Clothe the Kids)

We will not meet during the month of December.
See you on January 9, 2020 at 1:00 PM

ALL ARE WELCOME! No skill needed, we will teach you.
24 knitted hats were recently given to children in Decatur from our group. Thank you ladies!
Donations for supplies are appreciated. An envelope is available in the office.



**Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Tuesday, December 24
5:00 PM**



**CHRISTMAS
BRUNCH
SUNDAY
DEC. 22, 8:45 AM**
Bring a dish to share.
Drinks provided.
No Sunday School.

NOTE: There will be no Wednesday night activities during the month of December. We will resume supper, Bible study, and choir rehearsal on Wednesday, January 8 at 5:30 PM.

Enjoy this extra time with your family and friends.

Christmas Joy Offering, December 22

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

Prayers for Wholeness



The opportunity for communal Prayers for Wholeness will be offered the first Sunday of each month. 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.

Congregational Meeting



**Sunday, December 8, 2019
11:00 AM**

"Pending Commission on Ministry approval, the Session is calling a Congregational Meeting for the purpose of receiving motions from the Pastor Nominating Committee to:

- 1) approve a candidate;**
- 2) approve the candidate's Terms of Call (salary package); and**
- 3) dissolve the PNC.**

Teachers: New Study Available

A copy of The Way Made Clear: The History of Presbyterianism has been donated to us by author, Donna Huffman, member of First Presbyterian, Decatur. The book covers First Church's history and the history of the Presbyterian Church from its birth to its present practice. It also includes a DVD which covers Early Christianity, the Reformation, Coming to America, Presbyterians in Alabama, and Presbyterians in Decatur. If your group is looking for a study, this may be it.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Tuesday, December 3, 10:00 AM

**"Words of Love: Honor the Life-givers"
Exodus 20:12; Luke 9:57-62**


Leader: Barbara Allen

Lunch to follow at Logan's Roadhouse in the garage room.

ALL ladies are invited to join us for this study and lunch!



December

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1st Sun. of Advent CATS to Galaxy of Lights	2	3 10:00a PW	4	5	6 9:00a Decorate the church	7 NAP Rept Review (Ceil) 10-12
8 2nd Sun. of Advent Called Congregational Meeting	9 Office Closed Bonita Out	10	11	12	13	14 10a DMC Board Mtg.
15 3rd Sun. of Advent	16	17	18 Rosemary's last day in the office	19	20	21
22 4th Sun. of Advent 8:45a Christmas Brunch	23	24 5:00p Christmas Eve Service	25 	26	27	28
			Office Closed			
29	30	31	Interim Pastor's Contract ends Dec. 25.			



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

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



December Ministry Teams

December	1	8	15	22	29
Liturgists	BJ Breeding	Dan Watt	Nellie Gates	Bob Naumann	Greg Vogel
Ushers	H. Culbert D. Foster C. Ellerbe B. Mouton	J. Shull J. Newbill S. Shull S. Newbill	H. Moore G. Vogel B. Naumann J. Naumann	D. Coshow S. Shull W. Sweeley C. Sweeley	E. Wyle B. Wyle D. Foster F. Webster
Nursery	C. Ellerbe	J. Jordan	B. Mouton	J. Naumann	S. Newbill
Communion Nov. 3	Preparer: Linda Grissom		Communion Servers: Greg Vogel, Ed Wyle, Ceil Hydrick, B.J. Breeding, Nellie Gates		
Dec. 24	Nursery: Barb Wyle Ushers: S. Strong and H. Culbert				

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR WEDNESDAY POTLUCK SUPPERS IN JANUARY
 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.