

From Pastor Tripp Brogdon:



As COVID-19 continues to spread around the globe and into our own communities, the church has had to be flexible and adapt to the new reality we see around us. This has caused us here at St. Andrew to suspend our in-person Sunday worship and group meetings until the curve begins flattening. As I write this, we are only a few weeks into this mess, but there is already quite a bit of anxiety, worry, and restlessness.

We can't see each other face-to-face. We can't worship with each other face-to-face. We can't serve the Decatur community with each other face-to-face. Times like this are especially tough for a church like St. Andrew, because we genuinely love each other and care for each other. We thrive because of our relationships, and this virus has put a strain on those relationships.

One of the main questions that has arisen these past few weeks is this: how can we still be the church in this time?

I learned this week that there are approximately 96 different images or analogies of the church found in the New Testament alone! Some examples include "the body of Christ" (1 Cor. 12:27), "fishers for people" (Mark 1:17), "the field of God" (1 Cor. 3:9), and "God's own people" (1 Pet. 2:9).

As you can tell just by that small sampling, the language used to describe the church is diverse and rich. Daniel L. Migliore, Professor Emeritus of Theology at Princeton Theology Seminary says the following to sum up the vast array of images in the New Testament: "The Church is not primarily a building or an organization but a people, a community, and specifically the people of God who have been called by God."

Little did I know when I preached my first sermon with you all back in January, "Called Together," that we would have to get so creative about how to live out that calling with each other and with our neighbors! But here we are.

It has warmed my heart to hear the ways that you as a church have already been working to continue to be *the* church. It's what makes St. Andrew such a special "place." I don't just mean the building on the corner of Danville and Vestavia, either; I mean what is in your hearts and in your minds and in your souls. Keep it up!

Grace and peace,

Pastor Tripp

St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Teams 2020 Chairperson/Co-Chair

Clerk of Session	Philip Gilbert
Building/Grounds.....	Bob Naumann
Communications & Outreach	Sue Mitchell
Education & Spiritual Formation.....	Cheryl Ellerbe
Finance & Stewardship	Greg Vogel & Tommy Gates
Member Care	B. J. Breeding
Nominating.....	Dan Watt
Mission.....	Barb Mouton
Worship.....	Nellie Gates & Linda Grissom
Comptroller	Tommy Gates



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



W.C. and Cerese Sweeley
April 24



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

**Tuesday, May 5
10:00 AM**

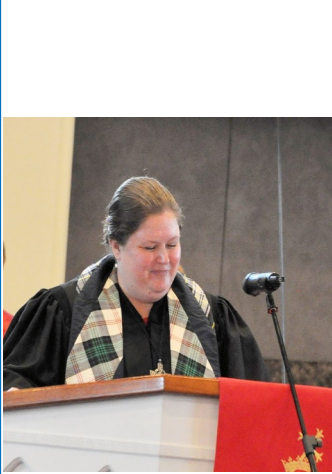
All meeting and activities at St. Andrew campus is canceled until further notice.

Due to the fact that Pastor Tripp and Bonita are continuing to serve at the church daily, we are asking that your coming to the building be limited to "necessary" visits.

We have learned that you can carry the virus up to 2 weeks before you get sick and therefore spread germs. Help us keep safe.

"May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from His glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light."

Colossians 1:11-12





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