

From Pastor Tripp:

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?" -Matthew 5:43-46

It's hard not to look out into the world and despair at the divides that we see. Sadly, it seems as if the divides grow wider every day. Almost every piece of dialogue (especially on social media) has become "Us vs. Them."

- Those who wear masks vs. those who don't
- Those who support monuments coming down vs. those who don't
- Republicans vs. Democrats
- Those who say "Black Lives Matter" vs. those who say "All Lives Matter"

There is so much anger and ugliness surrounding these divisions. Even more heartbreaking is seeing Christians lead the way with vitriol instead of love. We are called to be different, though. We are called to lead the way with love, even with those we may deem "enemies." That's exactly what makes Jesus' words from Matthew so revolutionary, even today.

That doesn't mean that we shouldn't have our own convictions or even that we shouldn't disagree with others. It's only natural that disagreement be present in the world, but the way we approach others is where we are called to be counter-cultural, to take the words of Jesus seriously in our own lives.

In his book, The Magnificent Defeat, Rev. Frederick Buechner claims the following:

"The love for equals is a human thing - of friend for friend, brother for brother. It is to love what is loving and lovely. The world smiles.

The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing - the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor, the sick, the failures, the unlovely. This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.

The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing - to love those who succeed where we fail, to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice. The world is always bewildered by its saints.

And then there is the love for the enemy - love for the one who does not love you but mocks, threatens, and inflicts pain. The tortured's love for the torturer. This is God's love. It conquers the world."

This is the opportunity we have in this day and time: to help share God's love that conquers the world!

Grace and peace to you all, Pastor Tripp

St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Leaders 2019

Chairperson

Clerk of Session.....	Philip Gilbert
Worship	Nellie Gates
Member Care.....	B. J. Breeding
Education & Spiritual Formation.....	Cheryl Ellerbe
Mission	Barb Mouton
Communications & Outreach	Sue Mitchell
Administration, Finance & Property.....	Turner Matthews/Ed Wyle
Building/Grounds	Bob Naumann
Nominating.....	Dan Watt
Comptroller	Tommy Gates

JULY
Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday

Barb Mouton	July 3
Addi Zeiher	July 9
George Hilleary	July 13
Bonita Smith	July 13
Ella Stephens	July 21
Betty Brandon	July 29

Happy Anniversary

Jeremy & Shelley Vinzant
July 11
Turner & Betty Matthews
July 18



Well, this pandemic continues! It was the recommendation to the Session from the Worship Team that St. Andrew not resume its worship services at this time. We will continue to evaluate the situation from month to month. It is felt that we would rather have our congregation safe and worshiping at home than to unnecessarily expose them to a virus. You will or have received a survey and it would really be a big help if you would complete the information and return the survey as soon as possible. Keep your Session in prayer as decisions regarding the welfare of the congregation have to be made. Serving God does not have to be in a building, but is in our hearts wherever we are!

Nellie Gates

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



On April 21, 2020 North Alabama Presbyterian Women had a virtual installation service. Barbara Allen was installed as Vice Moderator, and B.J. Breeding was installed as a member of the Search Committee. Joyce Counter conducted the installation and as a part of it, used a presentation of drawings of different kinds of things with which we see. Below is the presentation.

SUNGLASSES represent those who shield us from danger. **BIFOCALS** represent those who help us see where we are now and where we can go. A **KALEIDOSCOPE** represents those who help us see with different and colorful lenses. A **MICROSCOPE** represents those who help us discover new things. A **TELESCOPE** represents those who help us see far beyond our horizons. **GLASSES** represent those who help clear up our blurred vision. A **MAGNIFYING GLASS** represents those who help us find the small details. A **TAMBOURINE OR BELLS** represent those who help us celebrate our accomplishments.

Isn't it wonderful how God helps us to see?

-Barbara Allen



Notes of THANKS

From Parker Vandine:

Thank you so much for the very generous gift! I will never forget this incredible congregation and family. Thank you for everything you have done for me.

From Jordan Gilbreath:

I would like to extend to all of you my warmest feelings of gratitude for your generous gifts! Thank you kindly for thinking of me as I move forward to the next step of my education. Thank you to all those who thought of me and to all those who contributed to the choir's gift, as well as to those who offered their congratulations by other means.

From Bonita:

Thank you so much for loving care, prayers and support the past few weeks. It's been a LONG month for me and knowing you all were praying for me gave me a peace beyond human understanding. I have felt the love of you and of God so overwhelmingly. Thank you for the cards, food, phone calls, emails and expressions of your love.

I love you all and can't wait until I can see you again.



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 Sunday School 8:45 am
 Worship Service 10:00 am
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Pray!
Be Safe!
Stay Connected!