

From Pastor Tripp:

"Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is; be filled with the Spirit, as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to the Lord in your hearts, giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:15-20

Lately I have been trying to take Paul's advice...to be careful how I live, to be wise and not unwise, to make the most of the time. It can be hard, though, can't it? To add on to an already difficult task, Paul ends our selection here by telling the reader and the hearer of this word to give thanks to God *at all times and for everything!*

How in the world does Paul expect us to do that in this day and time? There is so much not to be thankful for! There is division and violence in our country, Covid-19 is still raging, and just among our own congregation, many face tough battles in their day-to-day lives.

While it may be easy to dismiss the thought of "giving thanks at all times and for everything" as naive, remember that Paul himself wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus from prison! Paul himself knew hardship and trouble, and yet he still implores the Ephesians and us to still give thanks. I would imagine that Paul would not want us to ignore the bad or minimize the harshness of life, but to give thanks in spite of it.

With that in mind, I decided recently to try something radical: to take Paul's advice. Every morning for the past few weeks, I have written down a list of the things for which I am thankful. The idea is so simple, but has turned out to be so profound for me. Participating in this new discipline has helped me frame each and every day with gratitude, instead of the alternative of ungratefulness.

On my list each morning has been all of you at St. Andrew. Your support and love for each other and for me has kept us all together even as we have been apart. I am reminded of Paul's words to another church in Philippi, "I thank my God every time I remember you."

Won't you join me in giving thanks?

Grace and peace,
Tripp

NOTE: An audio and written copy of each week's sermon is available on the website at www.standrewdecatur.org.

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



Jane Lowery	2		
Jackie Naumann	4	Sylvia Newbill	16
John Abbott	5	Donna Moore	21
Jeremy Stephens	6	Linda Webster	22
Carol Strong	7	Sherrie Nelson	24
Roda Kara	12	Fate Webster	25



Don & Jan Foster	3
Greg & Frances Vogel	4
Fate & Linda Webster	14
Jim & Joyce Boyd	23
Stu & Carol Strong	24
Philip & Nelda Gilbert	30



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The COVID-19 virus continues to increase in Morgan County making it difficult for St. Andrew to participate in corporate worship. As you know by now, the Session has decided to continue the suspension of in-person worship and activities through September, with evaluation reviews as needed. This decision

was based on the surveys received and the concern for the age and health of our congregation.

There have always been questions about where to worship, but Jesus said; "Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks." (John 4:23) While we continue to worship in a modern setting of YouTube, Facebook, or on our Web Page, we are hopeful, as Rev. Tripp said in his sermon of July 19, "Surely the Lord is in this place," wherever our place of worship may be at this time. May God keep you safe and healthy, at this different time in our lives.

Nellie Gates, Worship Chairman

Are you willing to serve?



It is that time of year again for the selection of Ruling Elders and Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee is beginning the task of selecting these candidates to be presented to the congregation. Please be in prayer for the committees at this time and for a position that you might best serve St. Andrew.

"Serve the Lord with gladness, come before Him with joyful songs." Ps. 100:2

THANK YOU CLEAN-UP CREW!



The Building & Grounds Committee sends out a big **"thanks"** to **Dave Ellerbe, Phil Gilbert, Stu Strong, Bob Naumann and WC Sweeley** for their help Saturday morning at the 2020 St. Andrew Mid-Summer Invitational (Cleanup). To those who prayed for us and sent good thoughts but could not participate due to a scheduling conflict: "Thank You As Well". We'll have other similar projects so don't dismay, you'll get your opportunity to help soon."

At an unscheduled round of the 2020 Mid-Summer Invitational on Wednesday the 28th, **Jason Ellerbe** joined in for a "cleanup" of the original cleanup. Many thanks, Jason!





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Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
 Sunday School 8:45 am
 Worship Service 10:00 am
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 Decatur AL
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Bible students say the weirdest things:

Q: Where was Solomon's temple?

A: On the side of his head

Correct: Jerusalem

Q: Who was the father of King David?

A: His mom's husband

Correct: Jesse

Q: What is the first murder in the Bible?

A: Abel was killed with a cane.

Correct: Cain killed Abel

Q: Who was the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

A: Mrs. Uriah

Correct: Bathsheba

Take care of yourself,
Respect others (wear a mask),
Stay connected,
Pray for one another.

***“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances;
 for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” 1 Thess. 5:16-18***