



"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." - 2 Timothy 4:7

As I am writing this, the 2021 Tokyo Olympics are now in full swing. Admittedly, I have not watched much of it so far this year, but I am always in awe of what these folks can do, pushing themselves both physically and mentally to do near impossible things. Watching gymnast Simone Biles defy gravity by flipping, twisting, and turning an inhuman amount of times in one jump is breathtaking. Seeing swimmer Katie Ledecky swim 800 meters

backwards faster than I can stand up and walk to my refrigerator will always blow my mind.

While most of us don't have Olympic-level athleticism, we have more similarities with them than you may think. I saw a quote recently from Pierre de Coubertin, the second ever President of the International Olympic Committee, that said, "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not winning but taking part; the essential thing in life is not conquering but fighting well."

If you are reading this, that means that you are taking part in this life. We don't always succeed or get to stand atop a podium and receive a gold medal for our efforts in life, and is something that I have yet to see anyone achieve. We, like those athletes, struggle and fight to brave difficult circumstances and clear obstacles that arise.

Let me stop to ask these questions: Are you struggling well? Are you fighting well?

I truly believe you are. I have seen many of you struggle and fight well as you have been making your way through this race of a life. I pray continually that God will provide the strength, the courage, and the hope necessary for you to echo Paul's words from 2 Timothy, *"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."*

So often we read that scripture at someone's funeral, as a testimony to that person's life and their ability to labor and persevere. I think, though, that it's more than appropriate to look in the mirror while we are still alive and remind ourselves that we *are* fighting well in this life...even in the face of heartache, struggle, and pain.

Even if you find it hard to be kind to yourself to say those words aloud, allow me to say them to you now.

You are fighting the good fight. You are finishing the race. You are keeping the faith.

I give thanks for each and every one of you, and I thank God that I am walking beside you in this life... even if we aren't moving as fast as a gold-medal Olympian!

Grace and peace,
Pastor Tripp

St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Leaders 2021..... Chairperson

Clerk of Session.....	Stuart Strong
Worship	Linda Grissom
Member Care.....	Nellie Gates
Education & Spiritual Formation.....	Turner Matthews
Mission	Barbara Mouton
Communications & Outreach	Harold Culbert
Treasurer/Administration.....	Philip Gilbert
Finance.....	Greg Vogel
Building/Grounds	Bob Naumann
Nominating	TBD



Jane Lowery	2	Sylvia Newbill	16	Don & Jan Foster	3
Jackie Naumann	4	Donna Moore	21	Doug & Jean Coshow	9
John Abbott	5	Linda Webster	22	Fate & Linda Webster	14
Jeremy Stephens	6	Sherrie Nelson	24	Jim & Joyce Boyd	23
Carol Strong	7	Fate Webster	25	Stu & Carol Strong	24
Roda Kara	12			Philip & Nelda Gilbert	30
Turner Matthews	14				

C.A.T.S. is on the move again!

With the Session Approval, your CATS Team met to proceed finalizing plans for: "Take Me Out To The Trash Pandas" Baseball Night. Mark two dates on your calendar.

Game Night: Tuesday, Sept 14th, against The Pensacola Blue Wahoos. First pitch at 6:35 PM.

Ticket Pre-pays: By Sunday, September 5th, at 10:00 AM. Tickets are \$16 each.

A representative of CATS will drive to the stadium and purchase the tickets in advance; hopefully, in Section 12 or 13 (ground level along third base line).

This event is open for all the St Andrew Congregation. For those already signed up, but not able to drive themselves, Rev Tripp and Greg Vogel have graciously offered their "Uber" Services. Currently the "Uber" count is only four; however, seating is limited. The church "Ubers" will depart the church **promptly at 5 PM.**

Contact W.C. Sweeley if you have any questions.

The CATS Team

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you
without leaving happier. -Mother Teresa

SAVE THE DATE!



Presbyterian Women will start meeting again on Tuesday, September 7, at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.

If you have not signed up for a study guide, please contact Barb Mouton by phone or text 256.476.6094.

CCC FOOD PANTRY



Items Needed Most

Grits/Oatmeal	Soup
Hamburger Helper	Crackers
Peanut Butter	Canned Greens
Canned Fruit	Pasta
Canned Veggies	Pasta Sauce
Dried Beans	Rice

Please leave items in shopping cart located in donation area.



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PRESBYTERIAN GIVING CATALOG SMALL GIFTS – BIG IMPACT

Need a gift?

Pick up a “Giving Catalog” in the narthex today and help someone by buying a gift that gives life. Help people to help themselves by giving dollars for farm equipment, chickens, goats, sheep, pigs, cows, education, water filters—the list is endless.

Give a gift that gives life!

Worship and Small Group Guidelines

Revised July 21 2021

It has been great to see our congregation in worship each Sunday. Our goal remains to keep everyone safe, but to allow us to worship in safety with our fellow members and friends. This is just a note to bring you up to date on the guidelines that the Session and the restart team have established.

- 1) All entrances to the building are now open.
- 2) Masks are optional and are a personal preference. There are masks available in the narthex if you would like one.
- 3) People are encouraged to recognize others personal space when seating themselves in the sanctuary and when talking after church.
- 4) Entrance and exits are through all doors of the sanctuary. The center doors will remain open during the service and you are encouraged to use those doors if you have to leave the service for any reason. **Closing the side sanctuary doors jar the streaming cameras.**
- 5) The offering plate will remain in the narthex.
- 6) Passing of the peace will be in your own seat and without touching others.
- 7) All hymns will be on the screens, but hymnals are available.
- 8) Communion packets will continue to be used for each communion service.
- 9) Nursery is available and volunteer workers will wear a mask.
- 10) The kitchen remains closed and use will be on individual basis, as approved by the Session.

Small Group guidelines:

- 1) A member of St. Andrew must be present during the meeting and is responsible for the group following the guidelines.
- 2) Meetings must allow for adequate social distancing.
- 3) If fully vaccinated, following CDC guidelines, masks are no longer required, but a personal preference, unless working with children.
- 4) No food or drink may be served, but individual prepared food or drinks brought in is acceptable.
- 5) The group is encouraged to sanitize the meeting area after use.

Nellie Gates, Chair, Restart Team

Member Care Committee Update

Member Care Ministry team is working toward some activities for fellowship for St. Andrew. The first activity will be a cookout on the patio on October 17, 4 PM. We will try our best to make this as sanitary as possible. Mark your calendar for this fellowship time. The CATS are looking at some activities for the remainder of the year including a Trash Panda trip (see Page 2). If you have not signed up in the office, please do so within the next week. Other activities will be luncheons, so make sure you read your e-mails for times and dates. If you have suggestions to keep St. Andrew connected, please let the Member Care team know. I look forward to seeing you at church.

Nellie Gates, Chair

The following items are highlights from the July 21, 2021, Stated Session Meeting:

The minutes of the Stated Meeting of March 19, 2021, and the Called Meeting of May 23, 2021 were approved.

- 1) Our membership as of June 30, 2021, is 78 with the addition of Linda and Roger Faulk and Sheila and Don Koza on May 23, 2021.
- 2) Rev. Brogdon reported on the June 8, 2021, meeting of North Alabama Presbytery, in the absence of Barb Mouton, who was out of state. The primary issue voted on at the meeting was disciplinary action taken against Christie Ashton, who was removed from her position of Clerk of Presbytery but remains the pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church in Huntsville. The Presbytery will be seeking a replacement for the office of Clerk.
- 3) Greg Vogel reported that June YTD income is about \$6300 below budget, but our spending is approximately \$17k below budget, so we continue to be in very good shape. The Mission team will be meeting to consider how to best utilize the resources we have, since the pandemic resulted in increased reserves for the church. If you have any suggestions, please contact Barb Mouton, chair of Missions
- 4) Nellie Gates reported that all is going very well as we continue to meet in person and see restrictions being slowly lifted. We will continue to monitor the situation as more information becomes available on the Delta Variant of Covid 19 and make adjustments to our policies as required.
- 5) Bob Naumann advised us that the Building and Grounds committee will be meeting to address beautification around the south sanctuary entrance, where the tree was removed.
- 6) Turner Matthews indicated that Sunday School Classes are going smoothly and we will be looking at restarting Wednesday evening activities in October (without a meal initially). Stay tuned for exact dates.

The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

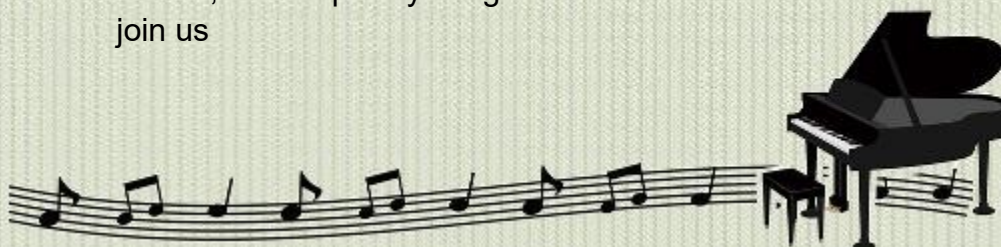
Stu Strong, Clerk of Session



Special Worship Service on August 15th



St. Andrew will be marking the end of summer with special music on Sunday, August 15th. Linda Faulk will be playing guitar and singing with Ceil Hydrick as we are invited to sing along. Some of our favorite more casual, contemporary songs will be included. Please join us





Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
3310 Danville Rd. SW
Phone: 256-355-6310
Email: Tripp@standrewdecatour.org

Join us:
Sunday Worship 10:00a
(in person and on-line)
Wednesday Bible Study 6:00p
(on-line)

Sunday Worship Service 10:00 am
Facebook: St. Andrew Presbyterian Church,
Decatur AL
www.standrewdecatour.org
Email: churchoffice@standrewdecatour.org

August Worship Leaders

AUGUST	1	8	15	22	29
Liturgists	Barb Mouton	Bob Naumann	Greg Vogel	Linda Grissom	Nellie Gates
Ushers	Doug Coshov Harold Moore John Newbill	Shelly Shull Sylvia Newbill	Jackie Naumann Barb Mouton	Dave Ellerbe Betty Matthews Ceresee Sweeley	Bob Naumann Fate Webster
Nursery	Nellie Gates	John Shull	Carol Strong	Shelly Shull	J. Naumann

CARING HANDS MINISTRY

2nd & 4th Thursdays each month, 1:00 PM
ALL ARE WELCOME! No skills needed, we will teach you.



**Brookdale/Cedar
Springs
Presents:
Summer Concerts by
the Pond**

**2505 Spring Avenue
SW**

Admission is FREE

Bring a lawn chair!

Concerts start at 6:00 PM

July 26th – The Hogan Family, Gospel

August 23rd – Nate Fortner, Southern
Gospel

WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR CONNECTION TO ONE
ANOTHER THROUGH SONG, **ALL SUMMER LONG!**

Summer of Song: A Concert Series brought to you by
the Presbyterian Giving Catalog is more than just a
"thank you" for your support — it's our chance to joyfully
honor our shared love of music, and the difference
Presbyterians are making together through our generosity.

JOIN US at pgcsummerofsong.org.

August 21 – 6:00 PM on YouTube
All concerts are FREE!

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