



Message from our Pastor:

Even though we are now in the season of Advent, I haven't been able to get Thanksgiving out of my mind just yet.

Thankfully, there was no *fowl* play on my drives to and from South Carolina. With no accidents, I was able to make good *thyme* on the road. Most of the leaves along the interstate had changed, and I must say, there were some *gourd-geous* views along the way!

I gobbled til I wobbled, and by the time I stopped eating, I was *stuffed*. On Friday, I was nothing but a (*sweet*) *potato* couch.

I also enjoyed my time with family. I was able to play some games against my nephews, but after they beat me a few times, it was *no more Mr. Nice Pie!* At one point, I think I said to them, "You want a *piece* of me?"

As we gathered around the table to eat, I told the following joke: "Why did the cranberry turn red? Because he saw the turkey *dressing!*"

OK, OK. I apologize. I know that joke was *corn-y*, but I am like *butter*... I'm on a *roll*. Sure, I could stop making these jokes, but I can't just quit cold *turkey*. After all, I *yam* who I *yam*. I promise I'll try to stop. I (*pe*)*can* do it!

In all seriousness, though, I spent so much of my time away thanking God for each and every one of you.

I am thankful for the ways that you love God. I am thankful for the ways you love each other. I am thankful for the ways you love those in our community who need it the most.

I hope you see that about yourselves, and I hope you recognize the ways in which God has blessed us with this community of faith.

During holiday seasons, it can be easy to lose sight of our reasons to show gratitude. I encourage you to be intentional about naming those things for which you are thankful, and keep that with you as we make our way through Advent, where we will continue to give thanks for the gift of Jesus Christ.

It may seem *cheesy*, but never forget that I am *grate-ful* for you.

Grace and peace,
Tripp

St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Leaders 2022	Chairperson
Clerk of Session.....	Stuart Strong
Building/Grounds	Bob Naumann
Communications & Outreach	Harold & Teresa Culbert
Education & Spiritual Formation.....	B. J. Breeding
Finance & Administration	Turner Matthews
Member Care.....	Faye Anderson & Jackie Naumann
Mission	Barbara Mouton
Treasurer	Philip Gilbert
Nominating.....	B.J. Breeding
Worship	Linda Grissom



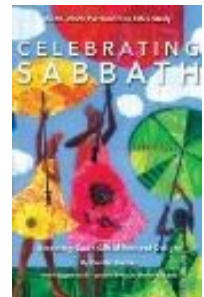
Sharon Thomson 10-Dec
 Tommy Gates 17-Dec
 Jimmy Wright 19-Dec



Dave and Cheryl Ellerbe
 Dec. 22



Presbyterian Women's Meeting
Tuesday, December 6, 10:00 AM
Lesson: "Sabbath and Surrender"
Exodus 16:11-15
Leader: Cheryl Ellerbe



We will have lunch following the meeting at the Freight House. We will carpool from the church. Sign-up on the bulletin board. Come join us! All ladies welcome!



Holiday Hope Chest Project
Christmas Shoeboxes
for Morgan County

Shoe boxes are available on the table in the narthex. Please take an instruction page with gift tags attached. A list of suggested items are on the back side of the instruction page.

Boxes are due back at the church, Sunday December 4.

The NCC Toy Store



Some of our ladies visited the Toy Store at the Neighborhood Christian Center in November. The NCC allows lower income families to come and shop for their children.

We can still use a few more toys through Dec. 7. Thank you for donating toys and baskets. Large baskets are always accepted.



WORSHIP "NOTES"



As Tripp explained in his November 20th sermon, Advent marks the beginning of our new church year. We have so many good things to look forward to as we begin our 26th year as St. Andrew Presbyterian Church.

On Sunday, November 27th we began our Advent journey. The candle of Hope was lit and the music, scripture, and message reminded us that Jesus' birth is coming once again.

On December 4th, 11th, and 18th the candles of Peace, Joy, and Love will brighten the sanctuary. Poinsettias, in honor and in memory of our loved ones, will arrive. Special music of the season will be sung.

Our Christmas Eve service, beginning at 4 PM, will include carols, communion, and candle-light, and on Christmas Day (Sunday) we will have worship at the 10 AM as usual. Sunday School classes will not meet that morning.

Come, in person, and join with us as we usher in a new church year and celebrate the birth of our Savior. Happy Advent and Merry Christmas!

Linda Grissom, Chair



CHRISTMAS BRUNCH
SUNDAY, DEC. 19, 8:45 AM

No Sunday School

Welcome Back to a potluck brunch! Make (or buy) your favorite dish for brunch and bring it to share. Breakfast casseroles, cinnamon rolls, muffins, fruit, sausage balls—you name it, we'll eat it! It is very exciting to get together again and share real food.



Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service
Friday, December 24
4:00 PM

A gift opens doors.
— PROVERBS 18:16



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 19



Congregational Meeting

For the purpose of approving Elders for
Class of 2023

Sunday, December 18, following worship



The following items are highlights from the November 16, 2022, Stated Session Meeting:

The November Stated Session Meeting was held on November 16, 2021, at 2:00 p.m.

1. The minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of September 21, 2022, and the Annual Congregational meeting of January 30, 2022, were approved.
2. Our membership as of October 31, 2022, is 74. Since our last report, Dan Watt died on October 5, 2022.
3. Ceil Hydrick updated the Session on the progress being made by the Commission to discern the future of First Presbyterian Church in Decatur. At this time, no decision has been made to close the church by the Session, the Congregation, or North AL Presbytery.
4. Linda Grissom reported on the Fall Meeting of North Alabama Presbytery held at Camp Maranatha on October 18, 2022.
5. The Session set the dates for two Congregational Meetings. The first will be on December 18, 2022, for the purpose of hearing the recommendations of the Nominating Committee for Elders and Nominating Committee members for the Class of 2025 and to approve the new Terms of Call for Rev. Brogdon for 2023. The second will be on January 22, 2023 and will be the Annual Congregational to hear reports on the Activities of the Church which were accomplished in 2022 and to present the Budget for 2023.
6. Turner Matthews reported that October YTD income was about \$6,100 above budget, and our spending is about \$11,200 below budget, so we continue to be in very good shape. Our total cash and savings are approximately \$236,000.
7. Our Restart Team was disbanded with the Session expressing thanks for their work over the last two-plus years. The restriction requiring masks and gloves while serving food was also lifted. Masks will not be required in the church but will be available for those who feel more comfortable with masks.
8. Bob Naumann reported that new LED lights have been installed in the hallway between the sanctuary and the Fellowship Hall.
9. Starting in January, for the first quarter of 2023 we will be having only two Wednesday Connect programs per month – on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Information on the programs will be announced.
10. Barb Mouton reported that Holiday Hope Chests are doing better than ever and collections for Thanksgiving meals are on track for distribution next week.
11. Linda Grissom announced we will have a Christmas Brunch on December 18 at 8:45 am, a Christmas Eve service at 4:00 pm on December 24, and a brief service on Christmas morning, December 25, at 10:00 am.

The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, January 18, 2023, at 2:00 pm.

Stu Strong, Clerk of Session

As the advent season approaches, it is once again time to be thinking about placing your poinsettia order in memory of or in honor of the special people in your life. The cost is \$11 each plant. The deadline to order is Sunday, December 4. There is an order sheet in the church office. Please make checks payable to the church. You may take your poinsettia home following the Christmas Eve service.



CONNECT
Family BINGO Night
November 30
Wednesday @
5:30 PM

Come and join the fun!

You can be a WINNER! Join us in the fellowship hall for a game of BINGO! Look around your house and gather new or slightly used items that you do not need or want, and bring them to be used as prizes. (Please bring items on Sunday, if possible.) Invite a friend, and join us for the fun!

CONNECT—Great Themes of the Bible #4
Wednesday, December 7, 5:30 PM
Led by Pastor Tripp

This has been such a blessing for those attending. Please join us as we continue this study at 5:30 PM in the fellowship hall. For the first quarter of 2023 (January, February, March), we will only be meeting on Wednesday nights on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month. We will begin our 2023 programs on Wednesday, January 11 at 5:30 with Bible study.



Christmas Carol Sing
Wednesday, Dec. 14,
5:30 PM

Christmas will be here before we know it. If you are having a hard time getting in the Christmas spirit, join us on Wednesday, Dec. 14 at 5:30 PM, when we will gather in the fellowship hall to sing some of our favorite Christmas carols.

CONNECT — LOOKING FORWARD TO 2023

For the first quarter of 2023 (January, February, March), we will only be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month. We will begin our 2023 programs on Wednesday, January 11 at 5:30 with Bible study. Read your bulletin or weekly email for more information.

CCC FOOD PANTRY

Collection the 1st Sunday of the month.



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.

Thank You

Thank you for giving food for Thanksgiving, Christmas shoeboxes, needs for the homeless, and Christmas Toys. You are a blessing!

*"So, let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time, we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up."
Galatians 6:9 NLT*



HOMELESS

Ministry

- Canned Food
- Toiletries
- Men's clothing
- Women's Clothing
- Underwear
- Socks
- Antiseptic ointment
- Insect Repellent
- Travel size shampoo
- Bar Soap / Deodorant
- Tissues
- Aspirin

More items listed in the donation area.

**SOUP
KITCHEN**
**MONDAY,
DEC. 12**

**Sign-up on the
bulletin
board.**



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

December Worship Leaders

Dec.	4	11	18	25
Liturgists	Nellie Gates	Samantha Simmons	Barb Mouton	
Ushers	Doug Coshow Dave Ellerbe	Stu Strong Andrew Simmons	Betty Matthews Don Foster	Cerese Sweeley Harold Moore
Nursery	Jackie Naumann	Carol Strong	Joan Jordan	

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Christmas Boxes DUE	5 PEO 6p	6 Pres. Women 10 am and Lunch	7 CONNECT 5:30p Bible Study	8	9	10
11	12 HAD Lunch	13	14 Choir 4:30p CONNECT 5:30p Christmas Carol Sing-a-long	15 Advent Taize 5:00 PM FPC	16	17
18 Christmas Brunch 8:45a Congregational Meeting	19	20	21 CONNECT 5:30p	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 4:00p
25 Merry Christmas! Worship at 10:00a	26	27	28 No activities	29	30	31