



Message from our Pastor:

St. Andrew,

It's not January 1st yet, but a new year is already beginning on our church calendar with the start of the season of Advent. It is a time when we await the coming of the Christ-child, God with us in the flesh.

It is always an exciting time of the year, and I have no doubt that some of you already have your tree up and have begun to listen to Christmas music. In my opinion, it's never too early! Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

Even as most of us try to get a jumpstart on all things Christmas, we must slow down, and we must prepare ourselves. That's what the whole season of Advent is about: watching, waiting, and preparing.

Please take the time to read through this edition of the Chronicle, so that you can be informed of all the ways we are watching, waiting, and preparing at St. Andrew during this season. You can help decorate our facility for Advent and Christmas, engage in weekly Bible studies over lunch, enjoy our annual Christmas brunch, get involved in mission work for our community, and worship on Christmas Eve for our Candlelight service.

On top of all of that, each and every Sunday throughout the season of Advent, I will also be preaching a new sermon series titled "Coming Soon."

If you think about it, the flow of the Advent season plays out like a movie. We get a hint of the highlights of the Christmas story during the first week, where we are invited to stay tuned to what is to come. Through the life and actions of John the Baptist, the scene and life of Jesus Christ is set up, as we are drawn in to remember the meaning of baptism and our own wilderness experience. Then the suspense heightens as we witness through the lives of Elizabeth and Mary that nothing is impossible for God. All this builds up to the climax of the Christmas story, where the Christ child is born, but not in a way that we expect. The plot twists and ends in a cliffhanger that invites us to wonder how we are called to participate in the story.

I hope to see you at all we have planned during Advent and that this season will be fulfilling and enriching. Most importantly, I pray that we will be open and receptive to God's movement throughout it all.

"O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel."

With glad expectation,

Tripp

St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Leaders 2023.....	Chairperson
Clerk of Session	Stuart Strong
Building/Grounds	Bob Naumann
Communications & Outreach	Rev. Tripp Brogdon
Education & Spiritual Formation	B. J. Breeding
Finance & Administration	Turner Matthews
Member Care.....	Faye Anderson & Jackie Naumann
Mission.....	Barbara Mouton & John Jordan
Treasurer.....	Philip Gilbert
Nominating.....	Shelly Shull
Worship.....	Linda Grissom



Sharon Thompson 10
Tommy Gates 17



Dave & Cheryl Ellerbe 22

CONNECT

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

DEC. 13

4:30 PM Choir
5:30 PM CONNECT
With Rev. Tripp

DEC. 27

No CONNECT

Seekers Sunday School Class

Beginning on Sunday, January 7, the Seekers Sunday School class will be watching and discussing Season 2 of “The Chosen”, the television series about the life and ministry of Jesus. Everyone is welcome to join us each Sunday at 8:45 am in the senior high room.



Order Your Poinsettias
Cost: \$20 each

Deadline: December 6th
at noon

Sign-up sheet and envelopes
are in the church office.

**Christmas Joy
Offering**

**Sunday,
December 24th**

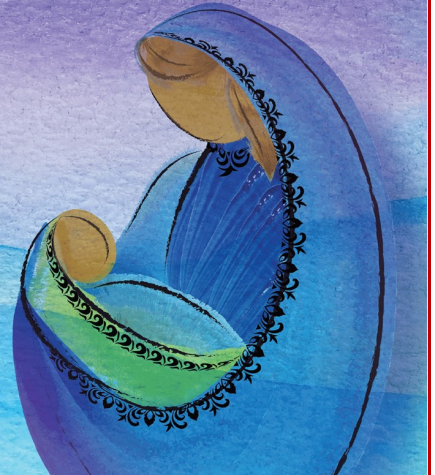


**CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS**

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE
DECEMBER 3 - DECEMBER 24

**What child
is this?**

THE PERFECT GIFT.



Presbyterian Women's Breakfast



**The following items are highlights from the November 15, 2023,
Stated Session Meeting:**

1. The November Stated Session Meeting was held on November 15, 2023, at 2:00 p.m.
2. The minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of September 20, 2023, were approved.
3. Bob Naumann and Rev. Brogdon reported on the Fall meeting of North Alabama Presbytery (NAP) which was held at Camp Maranatha on October 17, 2023.
4. Our membership as of October 31, 2023, increased to 80 by the addition of Genie and Bob Sparks by Letter of Transfer.
5. The Session voted to receive new members by Letter of Transfer. A group of those recently received will be introduced to the congregation within the next few weeks.
6. Turner Matthews reported that October YTD income was \$15817 more than expected and expenses were \$8488 more than budgeted, primarily due to the church's share of the expenses required to repair the sink hole near Vestavia Drive. Work is in progress to develop a budget for 2024, which will be presented to the Congregation at a called meeting on January 21, 2024.
7. Rev. Brogdon gave us a summary of the training course that he attended in Louisville to prepare him to be the moderator of North Alabama Presbytery next year. The meeting was very useful and involved 130 participants from all over the country. He also gave some insight to the Session of work that we will be doing next year to focus more closely on Spiritual Work and to discern our evolving mission in the Decatur community.
8. Bob Naumann reported that trees have been cut down, and dead bushes have been removed. A decision will be made in the spring regarding replacements. A new pump has been installed in the fountain. The worn carpeting at the entrance to the sanctuary will be replaced. Work is in progress to obtain a new heating and cooling system for the Fellowship Hall.
9. B. J. Breeding reported that Advent devotionals have been received for each family's use in December. Also in December, Tripp will be leading a three-week Advent Study from 11:30 to 12:30 on Mondays (Dec 4, Dec 11, and Dec 18). We are looking into starting a grief support group within the church within the month of December.
10. Faye Anderson reported that we had a very successful Luau in October. and that all the Shepherd groups have met. We are getting ready to decorate the church on December 1, and our Christmas brunch will be held on December 17.
11. The Mission Team reported on ongoing activities. Our primary effort in the next week will be to provide Thanksgiving dinners to three local agencies for those in need.
12. Linda Grissom reported that Advent will begin on Dec. 3, poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary on Dec. 10. We will have an abbreviated Service on Dec 24 in the morning and a Christmas Eve service at 4:00 in the afternoon. A worship service on December 31 will be led by members of the congregation since Tripp will be out of town with family.
13. The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 2:00 pm.

Stu Strong, Clerk of Session

November HAD Lunch
Thank you for serving!



Hands Across Decatur Soup Kitchen

Monday, December 11th

The menu is: pork loin & gravy,
rice, collard greens, and stuffing.
Please sign-up on the bulletin
board to serve or bring cornbread,
dessert, or Christmas candy.



Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 10th Following the service



Christmas Brunch
Sunday, December 17th
8:45 AM



Member Care



The Advent Season begins December 3rd, and the Member Care Committee is preparing various activities to celebrate this special season of joy. We will decorate the church on Friday, December 1st at 9:00 am. All who wish to help are invited. The Christmas Brunch is Sunday, December 17th at 8:45 am. The ten tables will again be decorated by volunteers on Saturday, December 16th at 9:00 am. A sign-up sheet to decorate a table is posted on the bulletin board. There are no specific rules for how to decorate, so use your imagination and decorate as appropriate. Everyone is invited to the brunch. Invite family and friends, bring a favorite dish or breakfast treat, and join in.

Chat "N" Chew **Advent Bible Study**

December 4th, 11th, and 18th
11:30 am-12:30 pm
In the Fellowship Hall
Bring your own lunch.
Study Focus: Hope

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

4:00 PM





Presbyterian Women's Meeting

Tuesday, December 5th
10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall
"Mary and Martha...", Luke 10:38-42
Lesson Leader: Rev. Tripp Brogdon

Our Christmas lunch will follow at 11:30 AM at Fulin's, which is in the Publix shopping center on Point Mallard Parkway.



DECEMBER WORSHIP NOTES



December is here with all its opportunities for worship, fellowship, helping others, and celebrating the birth of our Savior.

The Season of Advent will begin on December 3rd with the lighting of the first candle in our Advent wreath and Holy Communion.

Orders for poinsettias will be taken through December 6th at noon. They will be placed in the sanctuary on December 10th.

Because Christmas Eve falls on a Sunday this year, our 10:00 AM worship service will be abbreviated. Sunday School classes will not meet that day.

The traditional Christmas Eve service will begin at 4:00 PM and will include special music, candle lighting and communion by intinction.

The December 31st Sunday morning service will be led by members of the session and congregation.

Join us as we celebrate the Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love that our Savior brings to each of us this season!

Linda Grissom

Shoeboxes for kids



Holiday Hope Chest Project

The Holiday Hope Chest Project is underway for the 2023 Christmas season!

The Volunteer Center of Morgan County provides Christmas boxes for children from low-income households. Here's how you can help; preassemble a box, donate items to fill a box or give a monetary donation. More information can be found at the table set up in front of the Fellowship Hall. Boxes must be turned in by Sunday, December 3rd.

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.



CARING HANDS MINISTRY

We knit or crochet shawls and cut & tie lap blankets for
Hospice and the Cancer Institute.

We meet the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 1:00PM.

ALL ARE WELCOME! No skills needed, we will teach you.



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.

As you begin to do holiday cleaning and changing to warmer clothing, please remember the homeless who will need items for cold weather. Warm clothing, sheets, blankets, sleeping bags, tents, tarps, coats, gloves, socks, bikes, etc. are welcome.



Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Pastor
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 Email: Tripp@standrewdecatur.org
churchoffice@standrewdecatur.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Decorate Church for Advent 9A	2
3 Holiday Boxes Due	4 PEO 6P Color Group 9A Advent Bible Study & Lunch 11:30A	5 10A PW	6	7 DAR 10:30A-12:30P	8	9
10 Congregational Meeting following service	11 HAD Lunch Advent Bible Study & Lunch 11:30A	12	13 Finance Comm. Meeting 4P Choir 4:30P CONNECT 5:30P	14 Caring Hands 1P	15	16 *see below Decorate for brunch 9A
17 Christmas Brunch 8:45A	18 9A Color Group Advent Bible Study & Lunch 11:30A	19	20	21	22	23
24 No Sunday School Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 4P	25 Merry Christmas	26	27 No Activities	28	29	30
31 No Sunday School	Church Office Closed....			*Chestnut Grove putting wreaths on cemetery—needs parking	

December Worship Leaders

Dec	3	10	17	24	31
Liturgists	Bob Naumann	Barb Mouton	Harold Culbert	AM (None) PM Nellie Gates	Linda Grissom
Ushers	Barb Mouton Harold Culbert	Dave Ellerbe Betty Matthews	Don Koza Doug Coshow	AM Cerese Sweeley PM John & Shelly Shull Bob & Jackie Naumann	Harold Moore
Nursery	Shelly Shull	Jackie Naumann	Carol Strong	Betty Matthews	Joan Jordan
Communion Servers		Dec. 3: Bob Naumann, BJ Breeding, Don Koza, Stu Strong, Nellie Gates Dec. 24: Nellie Gates			