



Message from our Pastor:

St. Andrew,

For the first time since 2016, Easter will actually take place in the month of March, which means that day is rapidly approaching! Because it will come sooner than we are used to, we may be tempted to speed through this season of Lent. I fear that we will want to sprint to Easter morning, rather than taking a slow, purposeful walk with Jesus to the cross.

I get it! I do! Journeying with Jesus to the cross is difficult. Walking alongside our Savior as he heads towards suffering is not easy to dwell on. We are forced during this time to confront our own suffering, especially as we consider our sin, our shortcomings, and of course, death's power that seems to have its hold on us.

Lent can be demanding, heavy, and painful. I don't blame you, then, for wanting Easter to come sooner rather than later.

I want to challenge you, though, not to rush. In the words of one of my favorite authors, Henri Nouwenn, I wonder what would happen if, instead of ignoring or running from it, we dared to stand in our suffering.

He writes, "I really want to encourage you not to despair, not to lose faith, not to let go of God in your life, but stand in your suffering as a person who believes that she is deeply loved by God. When you look inside yourself, you might sometimes be overwhelmed by all the brokenness and confusion, but when you look outside toward him who died on the cross for you, you might suddenly realize that your brokenness has been lived through for you long before you touched it yourself."

Jesus, God-with-us, suffered in Jerusalem some 2,000 years ago, and Jesus joins us today (right now!) in our suffering, our heartbreak, and our failures. So do we dare to stand with Jesus in our suffering?

Yes, Easter morning is coming soon. How much more does it mean, then, knowing that resurrection is not possible without the cross... that Easter Sunday cannot happen without Good Friday... that God's victory emerged from God's suffering... and that our victory comes from suffering, too?

What would it look like if we believed that? What would it look like if we lived that way? It's something to ponder on our journey with Jesus.

Grace and peace,

Tripp

St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Leaders 2024	Chairperson
Clerk of Session	Stuart Strong
Building/Grounds	Bob Naumann
Communications & Outreach	D. Ann Norris
Education & Spiritual Formation	B. J. Breeding
Finance & Administration	
Member Care	Faye Anderson & Jackie Naumann
Mission	Barbara Mouton & John Jordan
Treasurer	Philip Gilbert
Nominating	Shelly Shull
Worship	Linda Grissom



Betty Matthews	2	Don Breeding	21
Jan Foster	10	Shelley Vinzant	23
John Jordan	10	Tripp Brogdon	23
Harold Moore	14		
Marilyn Hinkle	17		

CONNECT

MARCH SCHEDULE

MARCH 13

5:30 PM
Bible Study
with Rev. Tripp

MARCH 20

5:30 PM
Jim Phillips,
Alabama Historian
6:30 PM
Pack Easter dinners



Presbyterian Women's Meeting

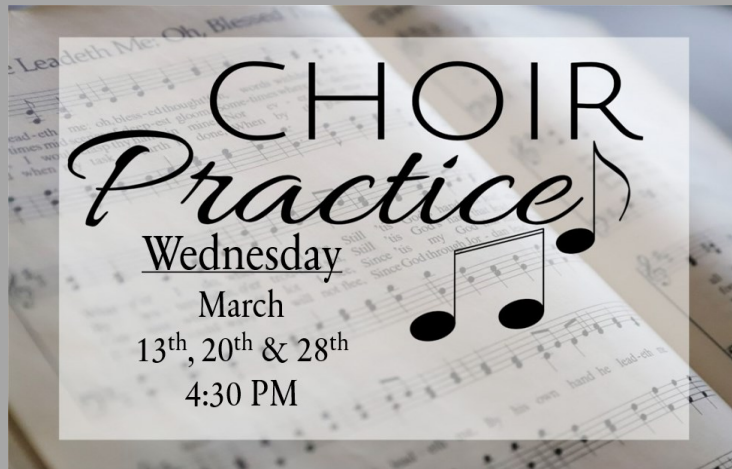
Tuesday, March 5

10:00 AM

Fellowship Hall

"An Ethiopian Eunuch...", Acts 8:26-40

Lesson Leader: Nellie Gates



Easter Dinner Collection

Our yearly Easter meal collection has begun! A designated area at the Donation Location is set up for the items. Deadline is **Sunday, March 17th**. We will be accepting donations to purchase the hams in the church office. Make check payable to SAPC. Below are the items needed for a meal (2 cans per meal).

Canned Corn

Canned Green Beans

Canned Candied Yams

Boxed Dessert (if a cake, bring frosting)

Canned Fruit

Boxed Potatoes

We will be providing 48 dinners this year to the CCC, NCC, VMoC, and new support for Hope Place. The cost of hams is expected to be around \$14 each. We won't know the exact price until they arrive. The donation deadline is Sunday, March 17. We will pack the dinners on Wednesday night, March 20 after the CONNECT Meeting.

Connect, Wednesday, March 20, 2024

On Wednesday, March 20 at 5:30 p.m., we will welcome Mr. Jim Phillips, Alabama historian/ videographer/explorer/speaker, to St. Andrew for our Connect program. In his talk, "Lost, and Some Found, Treasures of 1800's Alabama", Mr. Phillips will tell true stories of found treasures such as: 1) the accidentally dug Tuscaloosa Hoard of 272 pre-Civil War gold and silver coins; 2) the varied hidden caches of pre-Civil War gold coins found on an old 1800's home site in central Alabama; 3) the still being discovered, rarest of all U.S. soda bottles worth \$5,000 each; 4) the Civil War artifacts and antebellum gold and silver being discovered from old 1800's home sites around Alabama; and other true stories. He will also talk about still missing treasures such as the 5 ft. gold cross lost on Dauphin Island during the days of French occupation in the early 1700's.

Mr. Phillips will bring his display of 1800's - early 1900's treasures and artifacts. **You are welcome to bring a few pre-1920 coins, bottles, and/or paper currency for a free appraisal by Mr. Phillips after his talk.**

Add this event to your calendar, and invite your friends to join us on March 20 at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall.



Hands Across Decatur Soup Kitchen

Monday, March 11

Join us as we serve Chicken Pot Pie and salad.
Please sign up on the Bulletin board to bring
cornbread, rolls, or dessert.

A huge THANK YOU to all who helped serve or made donations to February's HAD lunch!

**Maundy Thursday
Service
March 28, 2024
at 6:00 PM**



Flowering of the Cross

Bring real or artificial
flowers to
decorate the cross on
Easter Sunday.

Please place flowers on the
cross near the fountain
before Worship

Member Care Committee March 2024

Café Connect is here!

The Member Care Committee is pleased to announce a special time for fellowship on Sunday mornings. Beginning Sunday March 3, coffee and light breakfast treats will be available in the Fellowship Hall at 9:30 am following Sunday School. This is a time for fellowship with friends, to welcome back those who have been out, and to meet new members. Plan to come, have a cup of coffee, and join in the fellowship.

(Please remember not to bring any drinks or food into the sanctuary.)

The Shepherd list for 2024 has been distributed. Take a moment to review your group. We encourage you to let your Session Shephard know when you have needs for prayer or assistance. Later in the year, small gatherings of each group with Tripp will be scheduled.

Shepherd List 2024

Faye Anderson Harold and Teresa Culbert Leslie Matthews Jimmy, Debbie, Andrew, and Samantha Simmons Carol Watt Linda Webster	BJ Breeding Barbara Allen John and Sara Bush Anne Campbell Bill and Jamie Heim W C and Ceresee Sweeley
Linda Grissom Dave and Cheryl Ellerbe Don and Jan Foster Jeff Gilbreath Mavis Stephens Jeremy, Gretchen, Abby, and Ella Stephens	John Jordan Doug and Jean Coshow Hank and Linda Livingston Bob Martin Harold and Donna Moore Parker Vandine
Barb Mouton Amy Burks Alan and Sheila Chapman Tom and Bobbie Meier Kayse Sharp and Hope Grissom Barbara Wyle	Bob Naumann George Hilleary Ceil Hydrick Jane Lowery John and Sylvia Newbill Shelly Vinzant and Robert Sumner
D. Ann Norris John and Betty Brandon Tom and Nellie Gates Don and Shelia Koza Bob and Connie Lawton Turner and Betty Matthews	Shelly Shull John and Rita Abbott Keith Abbott Stacey White, Gracie and Bri Nelson Ron and Lorrie Smallwood Lee and Addi Zeiher
Stu Strong Tom Caddell Roger and Linda Faulk Philip and Nelda Gilbert Bob and Genie Sparks Jimmie Wright	



“Waypoint to the Cross”

March 27th & 28th

10:00 AM-4:00 PM

In the Fellowship Hall

We invite you to come and experience “Waypoints to the Cross” during Holy Week. This will be a unique and interactive experience that will include some new elements this year! On each table, the visual story of Jesus’ journey to the cross will be displayed in pictures, along with a written description of each waypoint. A waypoint is another name for a stopping place on a journey. In this case, each waypoint will be a stop along the way that points to the cross. There will be 14 total waypoints, beginning with the anointing of Jesus by Mary in Bethany and ending with Jesus’ body being placed in the tomb.

Your journey is self-paced, and you may stay as long as you like. There will be a couple of chairs at each table. This personal experience can be deeply moving and humbling as you come to a deeper understanding of the awful, but beautiful sacrifice Jesus made for you.

This reverent experience will be available in the Fellowship Hall:

- Wednesday, March 27th from 10am to 4pm
- Maundy Thursday, March 28th from 10am to 4pm

Chat "N" Chew Lent Bible Study

March 4th, 11th and 18th

11:30am–12:30pm

In the Fellowship Hall

Bring your own lunch.



Adult Coloring
Group

Monday,
March 4th & 18th
at 9:00 AM

In the Church
Library

75 YEARS |  ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

REPAIRING THE BREACH

— ISAIAH 58

PROVIDING RELIEF FROM NATURAL DISASTERS,
FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY, AND SUPPORT
FOR THE POOR AND OPPRESSED.

Giving Sunday is March 31st

Easter Flowers

Donations may be made in
the church office.

If the donation is in memory
or in honor of someone,
please complete the form.

Deadline is Wednesday,
March 20th.



NAP Winter Stated Meeting

The North Alabama Presbytery Winter Stated Meeting was held at St. Andrew on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Over 70 folks from throughout the Presbytery attended. The meeting included worship, committee reports and business, a presentation from Living Waters for the World, and our very own Rev. Tripp Brogdon was installed as the new moderator of NAP for 2024! Breakfast items and refreshments were served by folks here at St. Andrew, and lunch was provided by Apple Lane Farms.



A "Thank you!" from your Pastor

What an incredible day it was as North Alabama Presbytery got to experience the blessing of meeting in the place we call home! I cannot thank you all enough for everything you did to provide an incredible welcome and heart-warming hospitality to everyone who attended. It was all made possible by a coordinated effort from Presbyterian Women, Buildings & Grounds, Worship, Member Care, and countless other volunteers. Thank you, thank you, thank you! I heard so many folks in awe of how smoothly things ran, how immaculate our facilities were, and how welcoming St. Andrew was. I am always proud to be your pastor, but I was EXTRA proud this weekend.

-Tripp

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

New Meeting Days-the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

ALL ARE WELCOME!

We will begin making cards that will be used to send out hope filled messages to those needing some encouragement or just a little extra "hug" to let them know how much we care about them. The only skills needed will be the ones you learned in kindergarten:

cutting and pasting! We have several paper artists in our group who will provide patterns and supplies from their overflowing stashes! No need to buy anything. We also knit or crochet shawls for Hospice and the Cancer Institute. No skills needed, we will teach you.



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.

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
 3310 Danville Rd. SW
 Phone: 256-355-6310
 Email: Tripp@standrewdecatur.org
churchoffice@standrewdecatur.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:15P DCC Dinner Show	2
3 Tripp CE	4 11:30A Chat'N'Chew 6P PEO	5 10A PW	6	7 10A-1P DAR 1P Caring Hands	8	9 Time Change Spring Forward
10 Daylight Saving Time Begins	11 11:30A Chat'N'Chew HAD Lunch	12	13 4:30P Choir 5:30P CONNECT w/Rev. Tripp	14	15	16
17 Last day to collect food for Easter dinner	18 9A Color Group 11:30A Chat "N" Chew 12:30P CE Meeting	19	20 2P Session 4:30P Choir 5:30P CONNECT w/Jim Phillips 6:30P Pack Easter dinners	21 1P Caring Hands	22	23
24 Palm Sunday	25	26	27 10A-4P Waypoint to the Cross	28 Maundy Thurs 10A-4P Waypoint to the Cross 4:30P Choir 6:00P Special Service	29	30
31 Easter Sunday						

March Worship Leaders

March	3	10	17	24	28	31
Liturgists	John Jordan	Bob Naumann	Barb Mouton	Nellie Gates	Harold Culbert	BJ Breeding
Ushers	Dave Ellerbe & Betty Matthews	Don Koza & Cerese Sweeley	Harold Moore & Don Foster	Stu Strong & Barb Mouton	John Shull & Shelly Shull	Bob & Jackie Naumann
Nursery	Jane Lowery	Betty Matthews	Jackie Naumann	Joan Jordan		Barb Mouton
Communion Servers	March 3: Don Koza, Shelly Shull, John Jordan, Barb Mouton, Linda Grissom March 28: Harold Culbert March 31: Bob Naumann, BJ Breeding, Don Koza, D. Ann Norris, Nellie Gates					