



Message from our Pastor:

Ah, the first day of school! It comes around this time each year, and it evokes many different emotions from teachers, students, and parents alike.

A parent once asked their son what time he wanted them to wake him up for the first day of school, and the boy replied, “6:30, so I have enough time to shower and cry.”

Parents have been known to cry on the first day, too, as they come to the realization that their babies are growing up too fast... but then after the first week, they’re yelling at them, “Get out of my car!”

Let’s not forget the poor teachers, either. Maybe we should be praying for them the most!

The beginning of a new school year, for all the good and bad we can say about it, can be a chance for a fresh start for teachers, students, and parents.

What about us, then, as students of this Christian faith of ours? When is the last time we acknowledged that we need a reset and a fresh start?

One thing that seems inevitable in our lives of trying to follow Christ is that we become comfortable right where we are. We get settled into our way of thinking and believing. In doing so, we refuse to grow, and we don’t feel like we need to learn anything new.

In their most formative years, we never tell children to stop learning. We push them to learn more and to expand their horizons.

Why shouldn’t we do the same with our relationship with God?

Sure, the first day of trying something new and of challenging yourself to grow can be both exciting and nerve-wracking, but in the end, it is worth the risk to embrace that journey of learning and growing.

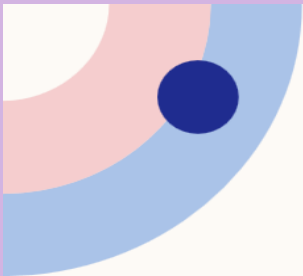
Need help getting started? Let me know!

**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.....	Don Koza
Member Care.....	Faye Anderson & Jackie Naumann
Mission.....	Barbara Mouton & John Jordan
Treasurer.....	Philip Gilbert
Nominating.....	Shelly Shull
Worship.....	Linda Grissom



Jane Lowery	2	Ronnie Smallwood	7	Donald & Jan Foster	3
Jackie Naumann	4	Matthew Turner	14	Doug & Jean Coshow	9
John Abbott	5	Sylvia Newbill	16	Stu & Carol Strong	24
Carol Strong	7	Donna Moore	21	Philip & Nelda Gilbert	30
Lorrie Smallwood	7	Linda Webster	22		



CONNECT

AUGUST SCHEDULE

AUGUST 14

5:30 PM
Ice Cream Social
&
Hymn Sing

CONNECT

As we close out summer, invite your family and friends to our ice cream social and hymn sing on Wednesday, August 14 at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Ice cream will be furnished. - B.J. Breeding

**The following items are highlights from the July 17, 2024,
Stated Session Meeting:**

- 1. The July Stated Session Meeting was held on July 17, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.**
- 2. The meeting was opened with a devotional led by B. J. Breeding.**
- 3. Linda Grissom, our Commissioner to the Summer Meeting of North Alabama Presbytery held at Faith Presbyterian Church in Huntsville on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, reported on the activities of that meeting.**
- 4. The minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of May 15, 2024, were approved as amended.**
- 5. June year to date income was \$3,318 more than budgeted and expenses were \$534 more than budgeted. Our checking and saving accounts increased by \$14,044 since the first of the year.**
- 6. Bob Naumann reported that we had a roof leak over the kitchen area which has been repaired and a sprinkler system issue has also been resolved. We are planning to have our parking lot sealed, prior to the freezing weather this winter – probably will take place during the month of August.**
- 7. B. J. Breeding reminded us that the last of our summer Connect programs will be an Ice Cream Social with a Hymn Sing on August 14. Our regular (twice a month) Connect programs will begin again in September, with programs on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month.**
- 8. Faye Anderson reported that the plans are being finalized for our cookout on September 25, at 5:30. The theme this year is Western. Due to numerous events already on the calendar, no CATS trips will be scheduled this year. We will be decorating the church for Christmas on November 25, 2024 at 9 am and will be removed on January 6, 2025 at 9am.**
- 9. Mission projects continue to do well. We collected \$815 for the Pentecost Offering 60%, \$489 went to NAP and 40%, \$326 was given to NCC for their Summer Youth Leadership Program. The HAD director, Sue Terrell, was taking a well-deserved vacation during July and we were able to get HAD 1800 bottles of water donated by Walmart to help people during the heat wave in June and July. Planning is well under way for Back to School, Hope Chests and Thanksgiving meal, projects we do each year.**
- 10. Rev. Brogdon led us in another installment of the Session Visioning and Discernment process that we are working on this year. This session dealt primarily with a review of the Visioning Dinner / presentation / discussion held after church on Sunday, July 14, 2024.**

The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 2:00 pm.

Stu Strong, Clerk of Session

Café Connect

8:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Fellowship Hall

Join us every Sunday morning for coffee, light refreshments and fellowship.



Volunteers are needed to assist with the refreshments. A sign-up sheet with details is posted on the bulletin board. If you have any questions contact any member of the Member Care Committee.

CHOIR *Practice*

Wednesday

August
14th & 28th
4:30 PM



Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. Colossians 3:23-24

Teacher classroom supplies were collected last month for Austinville Elementary School. Thank you to everyone that helped the Mission committee with the school supplies. The collection filled a lunchroom table. Guess who was there to greet us and help? Our own Dr. G!



Hands Across Decatur Soup Kitchen

Monday, August 12th

Menu: Hot Dogs and Sides

Please sign up on the bulletin board to bring rolls, dessert, or serve.



Member Care Report

August 2024 SAC

Join in Café Connect each Sunday morning beginning at 8 am. This is a time for fellowship before Sunday School or before the Worship Service. Thanks to all who are contributing snacks.

Session members will begin setting up meetings of the Shepherd Groups. These small group meetings are times for informal sharing and fellowship. Be sure to join in when your group is scheduled.

The Member Care Committee is finalizing plans for the cook-out on Sept 25. The theme is Western, so locate your old Stetson, dust it off, and mark the date on your calendar.



MEET THE CHOIR

(So that visitors, new members, and even long-time members of St. Andrew get to know us a little better, this column will feature a different choir member each month. If you love singing and may be interested in joining with us, visit any one of our choir practices. You're always welcome!)

Sheila Koza was born in Greenville, South Carolina and grew up in Pickens, South Carolina. She was raised in a small Southern Baptist Church and joined the Presbyterian Church in 1984. Sheila and husband Don joined Covenant Presbyterian Church here in Decatur on Palm Sunday in March, 1992. They have two sons. Jonathan is an attorney here in Decatur, and Jake, who lives in St. Mary's, Georgia, is a program manager for a major cruise line. They have one grandson, Harrison, a rising 8th grader at Curry Middle School.

Sheila has a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Anderson University in Anderson, S.C. She presently works for United Launch Alliance in the Global Trades Organization as an Import/Export Licensing Specialist. U.L.A. is a production facility that makes launch vehicles for space flight with payloads for NASA, the U.S. Space Force, and commercial launches.

Sheila has sung in church choirs most of her life and sang her first solo at age six. While growing up, Sheila, her father and sisters often sang together.

Paper crafts such as card making, journal making, and mini album crafting are hobbies she enjoys and shares with St. Andrew's card-making group.

When asked for "something interesting about you or your family, past or present" Sheila said, "In 2021 I traveled to Moscow, Russia to accompany engineers to a Russian rocket factory for an acceptance review of rocket engine parts for the ULA rocket production facility here in Decatur."

L. Grissom

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

Meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



We make 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.

Clothing, sheets, blankets, sleeping bags, tents, tarps, coats, gloves, socks, bikes, etc. are all welcome.



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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 1P Caring Hands	2 2P Memorial Service for Mike Smith	3
4	5 10A DMC	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 HAD Lunch	13	14 4:30P Choir 5:30P Ice Cream Social & Hymn	15 1P Caring Hands	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 4:30P Choir	29	30	31

August Worship Leaders

August	4	11	18	25
Liturgists	Ceil Hydrick	Don Koza	Cerese Sweeley	Shelly Shull
Ushers	Dave Ellerbe Cerese Sweeley	Stu Strong Betty Matthews	Don Koza D. Ann Norris	Bob & Jackie Naumann
Nursery	Betty Matthews	Barb Mouton	Shelly Shull	Carol Strong
	Communion Servers	Bob Naumann, Shelly Shull, John Jordan, Stu Strong & Nellie Gates		