



VISIONING UPDATE:

St. Andrew,

What a joy it has been to engage in this visioning process as we discern, as best we can, who God is calling us to be and what God is calling us to do in the future.

Your Session and I have been praying, studying, and having honest conversation around what God's will for us might be moving forward. As a part of that effort, we knew that we needed to hear from all of you, the congregation. If you remember, at the end of our catered visioning lunch in July, you answered a series of questions that revolved around who you think we are right now and who you wish we would be and what you wish we would do in the future.

In preparation for the August Session visioning meeting, each and every response was read by each Session member. In the meeting itself, we spent over 2 hours discussing your responses and the themes that emerged from those responses. At the end of the gathering, we put together a list of clear and concise statements about what we learned. They are as follows:

- The congregation identifies itself as loving, caring, and cohesive.
- Our congregation recognizes and appreciates current mission efforts, while desiring to address additional unmet needs in the community.
- There is a disconnect between our desire for more mission and our capabilities.
- While current worship opportunities nurture the spiritual needs of our members, special services have been highlighted as particularly fulfilling.
- There is a desire for more opportunities and times for prayer.
- Our congregation wishes to serve and engage with children, youth, and young adults in our community.
- St. Andrew desires church growth and diversity, particularly young people and families.
- Our family of faith values consistency and longevity in pastoral leadership.
- The members of St. Andrew believe our Christian Education offerings promote spiritual growth.

As author and pastor Frederick Buechner says, "The kind of work God usually calls you to is the kind of work (a) that you need to do and (b) that the world needs to have done. The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."

Thanks to you all, we will be using these clear and concise statements to help guide us to the work that gives us deep gladness and that needs to be done in our community.

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



John Brandon 11
Joan Jordan 24
Teresa Culbert 28
Robert Lawton 29

John & Betty Brandon 23

CONNECT

SEPTEMBER SCHEDULE

SEPT. 11

SEPT. 25

4:30 PM
Choir
5:30 PM
Bible Study
w/Rev. Tripp

4:30 PM
Choir
5:30 PM
Cook Out



CHURCH COOKOUT

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH
5:30 PM



Presbyterian Women's Meeting
Tuesday, September 3rd

10:00 AM

Fellowship Hall

Lesson: "Environmental Justice"

Ezekiel 33:21; 34:8; 17; 18-19

Leader: Nellie Gates

Member Care Committee

Many thanks to everyone who brings breakfast snacks to Café Connect. If you are interested in bringing food, information is on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. You can also call Jackie Naumann at 256-366-3343 or Faye Anderson at 256-654-1005.

Thank you to all who contribute food to our members in need. Your contributions speak to the support we have for each other at St Andrew.

Be sure to make plans to attend the Cook-Out on Sept 25. The theme is Western and all are invited. We will begin gathering at 5:30 and plan to eat at 6:00. A sign-up sheet is in the church office. Please sign up so we can plan appropriately.



Hands Across Decatur Soup Kitchen

Monday, September 9th

Menu: Chicken Tortilla Soup & Vegetables

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

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

September
11th & 25th

4:30 PM





Upcoming Mission Projects

Why think about Christmas now? Planning ahead now just makes everything work better. Here is some information about three upcoming Mission projects.



We have set up our Holiday Hope Chest table. While the boxes aren't due until the first week of December, the Volunteer Center has to vet the items in each box which takes time. In September we will have a wrapping party. Anyone who has leftover Christmas paper to donate can leave it by the table or take boxes home to wrap. Call Barb Wyle for more information.

As always, we be donating Thanksgiving meals to those in our community. The Great Turkey Hunt led by our own Head Turkeys, Bill Heim and Tom Meier, is already underway to find turkeys at the best price. We will gather on Wednesday, November 20 to pack up our meals. You may want to buy sides like corn, beans, cranberry sauce, yams, boxes of instant mashed potatoes, and desserts ahead of time when you find sales. Check the Donation Location for a box for early contributions.

Also, on Wednesday, November 20 we will be assembling purses for battered women through Hope Place. Many women flee their abusers with absolutely nothing and, as you all know, we gals love our handbags. To make this work we need to start collecting new or gently used handbags as well as the items that go in them like brushes, make up, tissues, etc. Again, a box will be set up at the Donation Location.

Thank you ~ Barbara Mouton



Holiday Hope Chest Wrap Party

Thursday, September 26th

at 10:00am

in the Fellowship Hall

While some will be provided, please bring your own scissors as well as tape, and Christmas paper if you have any.

Coffee and treats will be provided.



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!)

I am a cradle Presbyterian, and an ordained Deacon and Elder. As an Elder at St. Andrew, I was the first female chair of Building and Grounds. I was instrumental in getting the screen and sound system installed in the fellowship hall. With Harold Culbert, I co-wrote the Sexual Misconduct Policy for St. Andrew. It was adopted by Westminster, Decatur.

Currently, I serve as SAPC's PW Circle Leader, and the PWP Moderator of the North Alabama Presbytery. I established the PW Circle at First Presbyterian, Hartselle. While in my 20's, I organized an intergenerational PW Circle at another church consisting of young working wives and older members who didn't want to be with "just old ladies."

I have sung in a church choir since I was six years old. Currently, I sing with our adult choir. I am one of the backup piano accompanists. At First Presbyterian, Hartselle, I served as pianist/organist/choir director. They sang the anthems in unison with me sometimes joining in. I also have been an accompanist/director for a 5th and 6th grade chorus. (We bribed them with cookies.)

As a child before I could read, I would put all my dolls in a circle at home and give them the day's Sunday School lesson. Sunday afternoons as I grew older, were spent seated at the piano for hours playing first the hymns from the day's bulletin and then learning other hymns. Guess God had plans for me! In the past, I taught 5th, and 8th graders, and then a 4–5-year-old class with my mother. Now, I am one of the teachers for the Seekers class.

My brother, Rev. C. William Allen, was the founding pastor of Bethany Presbyterian Church, Decatur which combined with Covenant to form St. Andrew. While in his 60's and 70's, my dad could be found at the coffee hour after church in a circle surrounded by the teens of the church talking and joking. My mother was very active in PW.

-Barbara Allen

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.



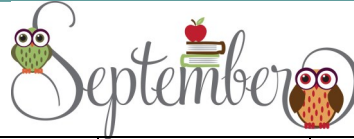
Canned Food
Toiletries
Men's clothing
Women's Clothing
Underwear
Socks
Antiseptic ointment
Insect Repellent
Travel size shampoo
Bar Soap / Deodorant
Tissues
Aspirin

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@standrewdecatur.org
churchoffice@standrewdecatur.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Labor Day Church Office Closed	3 10A PW 6:30p CC	4	5 1P Caring Hands	6	7
8	9 HAD Lunch	10 6:30P CC	11 4:30P Choir 5:30P Connect w/Rev. Tripp	12	13	14
15	16	17 6:30P CC	18 2P Session Meeting	19 1P Caring Hands	20	21 DMC 10A-1:30P
22	23	24 6:30P CC	25 4:30P Choir 5:30P Connect Cookout	26 10A Holiday Hope Chest Wrap Party-FH	27	28
29 Combined SS	30					

September Worship Leaders

Sept.	1	8	15	22	29
Liturgists	Barb Mouton	John Jordan	Faye Anderson	Bob Naumann	Nellie Gates
Ushers	John & Shelly Shull	Harold Moore Don Foster	Doug Coshow Dave Ellerbe	Cerese Sweeley Don Koza	Stu Strong Barb Mouton
Nursery	Betty Matthews	Barb Mouton	Shelly Shull	Carol Strong	Jane Lowery
Communion Servers	D. Ann Norris, B.J. Breeding, Don Koza, Barb Mouton, Linda Grissom				