



Message from our Pastor:

St. Andrew,

As your Session continued its visioning work in September, we have recognized the need to now turn our focus on what we, at this church, are called to do moving forward. Our prayer and hope is to identify our calling from God as we begin to explore and zero in on tangible ways for us to serve. We have spent time exploring who we are, and we have come to the conclusion that we are blessed.

St. Andrew is a place where we have so many faithful folks, willing to give of themselves for others, to extend hospitality, and to follow Christ where he leads. We have varied talents and gifts, but we are one united body. We thank God for each and every one of you.

As we discern our particular calling, I warned the Session that we must resist the temptation to treat this as a problem that must be solved, as if it is our own strength, power, brains, and work that will ultimately get the job done.

In 2014, Presbyterian Pastor Joan Gray wrote a book titled *Sailboat Church*. In it, she says that many North American Christians have spent their whole lives in churches that operate mainly by rowing. Rowboat churches do what they can with the resources they have—money, wisdom, energy, people, facilities. The rowboat congregation believes and acts as if its progress depends on its own strength, wisdom, and resources.

What we are called to be, according to Rev. Gray, is not a rowboat church, but a sailboat church. Sailboat congregations know that they cannot make the wind blow, but they do realize that they can tap into spiritual resources beyond themselves by reorienting their efforts and catching the wind of the Spirit.

Rowers are confined to the power they can generate themselves; sailors learn to let the boundless power of the wind move them where they need to go.

That's what your Session will be doing as we continue to discern the way forward. We will be relying on the Holy Spirit – that powerful wind – to push us forward to where we need to go.

With this in mind, we are asking you to PRAY... pray for the Session... pray for me... and pray for this church... that we might be willing to let God lead us... that we may submit our vision to God for testing and trial... and that the Holy Spirit would indeed blow!

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 |



| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Cheryl Ellerbe | 12 |
| Jacob Shull | 13 |
| Lee Zeiher | 15 |
| Sheila Koza | 19 |
| Leslie Matthews | 21 |
| Barb Wyle | 27 |
| Dave Ellerbe | 28 |
| Linda Faulk | 30 |





CONNECT

OCTOBER SCHEDULE

| | |
|--|--|
| <div style="background-color: #f08080; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">OCT. 9</div> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid #ccc;"/> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">5:30 PM Bible Study w/Nellie Gates</p> | <div style="background-color: #6495ed; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;">OCT. 23</div> <hr style="border: 0.5px solid #ccc;"/> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">5:30 PM Blessing of the Animals</p> |
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Hands Across Decatur Soup Kitchen

Monday, October 14th

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

Café Connect

8:00 AM to 9:50 AM

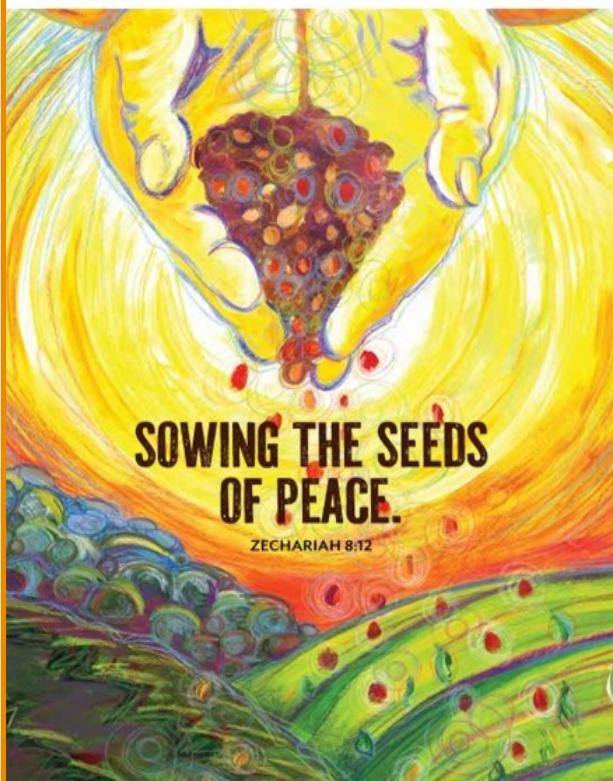
Fellowship Hall

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.

 PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION



The Peace & Global Witness Offering will be taken on World Communion Sunday, Oct 6.

- The Peace & Global Witness Offering affirms that the peace of God, which is central to the gospel, starts with us. We are there to sow seeds of peace by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world.
- 25% of this Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community.
- 25% of this Offering goes to our mid council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region.
- 50% of this Offering supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.



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!)

Jeff Gilbreath was born in Russellville, Alabama and grew up in Mount Hope. He was raised Southern Baptist, is now Presbyterian (USA), and plays piano once a month at Annunciation Catholic Church for their 5:00 Saturday Mass.

Jeff earned degrees in Applied Voice (Opera) from the University of North Alabama, a Master of Religion and Education from Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, and a Master of Music Education (Vocal) from Auburn University. His dissertation for PhD in Music Education (Vocal) from Auburn University was titled "Prevalence and Epidemiology of the Vocal Problems of Music Teachers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi and Tennessee".

Jeff ("Dr. G.") has been a voice and piano teacher, a full-time minister of Music/Senior Adults/Education, and at Alabama Southern Community College, taught Choirs, Music Appreciation, Old Testament, New Testament, Voice, Piano, and Music Theory. At Auburn University Jeff taught Voice, Vocal Skills, Guitar Skills, Music and Applied Arts for General Education Teachers, Music Technology, and also ran the distance education program for graduate students.

Now teaching general music classes at Austinville Elementary School, "Dr. G" uses Orff, Kodaly, and World Music Drumming with all Pre-K through fifth graders as well as teaching recorder, ukulele, keyboard, and percussion. In his spare time, Jeff enjoys computer games, genealogy, and languages.

Jeff has been in church choirs since "1974-ish" as well as in college and community choirs, community theatre, and operas, operettas, and oratorios.

When asked for "something interesting about you or your family, past or present", Jeff said, "My daughter works with homebound autistic children, helping them advance enough to be able to attend school. My son has his Masters in Computer Science and works as a computer programmer. Our dog, Lily, is 12 years old and lives with my son and daughter near Atlanta. Because we were told that Lily's mother was ShihTzu and her father was Maltese, we decided to run a doggie DNA test on her. The test showed that Lily's father was Havanese, a breed that came from the Canary Islands down to Cuba. That explained why she looks like a Shih Tzu with a tiny head but without big bug eyes. Because of her DNA being majority Shih Tzu, then Maltese, and 11% Havanese, all dwarf breeds with long hair, she needs a \$90 haircut once a month"!

Linda Grissom

**The following items are highlights from the Sept 18, 2024,
Stated Session Meeting:**

- 1. The September Stated Session Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 18, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.**
- 2. The meeting was opened with a devotional led by Shelly Shull.**
- 3. The Session agreed to have a Veterans' Breakfast hosted by the DAR on Sunday, November 10, 2024, during normal Sunday School time.**
- 4. By consensus, Stu Strong was selected to be our Commissioner to the Fall Meeting of North Alabama Presbytery which will be held at Camp Maranatha on Saturday, October 15, 2024.**
- 5. The minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of July 17, 2024, were approved as issued.**
- 6. August year to date income was \$1,917 less than budgeted and expenses were \$2,605 less than budgeted. Our checking and saving accounts increased by \$15,354 since the first of the year.**
- 7. Bob Naumann reported that we will have the cracks in our parking lot sealed within the next few weeks. He is also in the process of getting quotes to pressure clean the underside of the portico and the breezeway into the church and to paint those same surfaces after they have been cleaned.**
- 8. B. J. Breeding reported that the ice cream social and hymn sing on August 14 was well received. Advent devotional books for each family have been received and will be available just prior to the start of Advent. On Wednesday, October 23 we will again have a blessing of the animals during our CONNECT time.**
- 9. Faye Anderson reported that final preparations are being made 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. Leslie Matthews will be having knee surgery on September 25, but we will have Nursery coverage as needed.**
- 10. Barb Mouton advised us that the Peace and Global Witness offering promotion is underway. We plan to provide 50 Thanksgiving meals for local families in November. Thanks to Tom Meier, John Jordan and Philip Gilbert for doing the work required to get St. Andrew approved as buyer from a commercial food service, we will be able to get less expensive, better service when we buy turkeys and hams in the future.**
- 11. Linda Grissom informed us that we will have a new banner in the sanctuary for Advent. Our next special service will be on World Communion Sunday on October 6, 2024.**
- 12. Rev. Brogdon led us in another installment of the Session Visioning and Discernment process that we are working on this year. We are beginning to look for ways that we can adjust to God's will for our community as we move forward. We want to be a "Sailboat Church"**

The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 2:00 pm.

Stu Strong, Clerk of Session



Upcoming Mission Projects



We have set up our Holiday Hope Chest table. While the boxes aren't due until Sunday, November 24th, the Volunteer Center has to vet the

items in each box which takes time. 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



Member Care

The Cook-out on September 25 was filled with fun, food and fellowship. A great team coordinated the good time: Trail cooks W C Sweeley and Nellie Gates, and Ranch Hands Jackie and Bob Naumann, Linda Grissom, Cheryl Ellerbe, and music producer Chief Cowboy Rev Tripp.

A special "shout-out" was given to the choir led by Mavis Stephens, Jeff Gilbreath, and Linda Grissom.

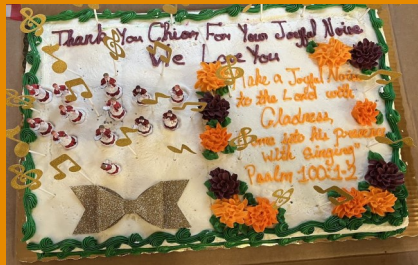
Even the threat of rain could not dampen all the fun. Thanks to the team and to each one who came and joined in.

COWBOY COOKOUT

2024



COWBOY COOKOUT 2024



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@standrewdecatour.org
 churchoffice@standrewdecatour.org

October

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| | | 1 10A PW 6:30P-8P CC | 2 | 3 10A-1P DAR 1P Caring Hands | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Peace & Global Witness Offering | 7 Rev. Tripp out of office 7-14 | 8 6:30P-8P CC Rev. Trip Off | 9 4:30P Choir 5:30P CONNECT Rev. Tripp Off | 10 11A DAR Rev. Tripp Off | 11 Rev. Tripp off | 12 |
| 13 Rev. Tripp off | 14 HAD Lunch Rev. Tripp off | 15 6:30P-8P CC Rev Tripp @ Presbytery Meeting | 16 | 17 1P Caring Hands | 18 Parking Lot repair | 19 10A DAR need projector & screen |
| 20 | 21 | 22 6:30P-8P CC | 23 4:30P Choir 5:30P Blessing of the animals | 24 | 25 | 26 8A-12P DMC-needs all rooms w/ piano, FH & sanctuary |
| 27 Reformation Sunday | 28 | 29 1:30P Member Care Meeting 6:30P-8P CC | 30 | 31 | | |

October Worship Leaders

| October | 6 | 13 | 20 | 27 |
|------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Liturgists | Linda Grissom | B.J. Breeding | D. Ann Norris | Bob Naumann |
| Ushers | Betty Matthews D. Ann Norris | John & Shelly Shull | Bob & Jackie Naumann | Harold Moore Don Foster |
| Nursery | Barb Mouton | Betty Matthews | Shelly Shull | Carol Strong |
| | Communion Server | Nellie Gates | | |