



**St. Andrew,**

**As we approach Advent, we know that this season is one of anticipation and preparation. It's a sacred time that mirrors where we are as a church. Just as Advent calls us to prepare for Christ's coming, we find ourselves in a season of preparing for the next chapter of our church's ministry.**

**Advent reminds us to wait with hope, to reflect on God's promises, and to trust in the unfolding of God's plan. It's a time to take a step back from the busyness, listen more deeply for God's voice, and be reminded of the joy and love that come through Jesus.**

**Your Session is called not only to make decisions, but also to seek God's guidance for the church's mission and future. This has been an emphasis throughout the year of visioning. We believe that prayer is essential—not just during Advent, but as a foundation for everything we do. When we take time to pause, reflect, and pray, we invite God into the heart of our visioning. We open ourselves to God's wisdom, and we ground our work in God's purposes.**

**So the season of Advent offers us a special opportunity to do this in an intentional and meaningful way. It's a time when the church calendar invites us to align ourselves with God's story—a story of hope breaking into the world, peace overcoming fear, joy springing up in unexpected places, and love that transforms everything it touches. For the Session and for myself, stepping into this story through prayer can help us lead with clarity and faithfulness.**

**So, as we enter Advent, I want to invite the entire congregation into a shared commitment: to pray daily during this season, beginning on Sunday, December 1, using the Advent Prayer Guide I've prepared for us. Even though you will pray individually with this guide, know that you are also praying together with the Session and with me, as we collectively invite God to shape our hearts and reveal God's purposes for our church.**

**Jennifer is sending a separate .pdf file along with the SAC that contains the full prayer guide and instructions on how best to use it. She will also be happy to print out physical copies, as well.**

**Please join us in this Advent commitment; pray with us in hope, peace, joy, and love.**

**Grace and peace,**

**Tripp**

<b>St. Andrew Elders &amp; Ministry Leaders 2024</b> .....	<b>Chairperson</b>
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



Sharon Thomson      10  
Tommy Gates         17

Dave & Cheryl Ellerbe      22



**Christmas Brunch**  
Sunday, December 15  
at 8:45am

If you would like to volunteer to decorate a table for the Christmas Brunch, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

There are no specific rules for how to decorate, so use your imagination!

You can decorate your table on Saturday, December 14th at 10:00 am.



**Hands Across Decatur Soup Kitchen**  
Monday, December 9th  
Please sign up on the bulletin board to bring rolls, dessert, or serve.



Presbyterian Women's Meeting  
Tuesday, December 3, 2024  
at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall  
Lesson: "Water Justice"  
Leader: Barbara Allen  
All Ladies Welcome!



Order Your Poinsettias  
Cost: \$15 each  
Deadline: December 1st  
at noon  
Sign-up sheet and envelopes  
are in the church office.

**CHOIR**  
*Practice*  
Wednesday  
December  
4<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>  
4:30 PM

# Chat "N" Chew Advent Bible Study

December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>

11:30 am-12:30 pm

In the Fellowship Hall

Bring your own lunch.

## *Christmas Eve Candlelight Service*

*4:00 PM*



**Hanging of the Greens  
and  
Soup Dinner**

**Wednesday, December 4th**

**at 5:30 PM**

**Dinner will be provided.**

# 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.**

## Christmas Joy Offering

Sunday, December 22



## Congregational Meeting Sunday, December 8th Following the service



## Mission Night

Mission Night, November 20, was a wonderful success! We packed 50 Thanksgiving meals to donate, stuffed 45 purses with needed items for abused women and worked on a few more Holiday Hope Chests.

Thanks to everyone who was there to do hands on ministry and to everyone whose donations made this all possible. "If we all do a little, it adds up to a LOT!"



## Member Care

What a beautiful time of year--we give thanks for our blessings and plan gatherings with family and friends. I am so thankful for members of the committee and other volunteers that help with all our activities. As we enter the Advent season, several events are scheduled for us to exchange greetings and celebrate the season. And of course--eat!

A soup dinner followed by a Hanging of the Greens service is December 4th at 5:30pm; members of the committee will be preparing the dinner.

Our annual Christmas Brunch is December 15th at 8:45am. Plan to bring your favorite brunch dish, invite guests, and join in. Members are invited to decorate a table for the brunch. We will decorate on Saturday Dec 14th at 10:00am and remove the decorations after the Worship service on Sunday Dec 15th. Questions about decorating can be directed to the church office or to Faye Anderson at 256-654-1005. We welcome all volunteers, and there are no requirements other than to leave room for good food. A signup sheet for volunteers to decorate ten tables is posted on the bulletin board.

## Seekers Sunday School

The Seekers Sunday school class will begin a study of *The Epic of Eden: Ruth* by Dr. Sandra Richter on January 5. This study is for newcomers to the story of Ruth as well as others who have perhaps studied the book of Ruth multiple times. As she makes the characters come alive, Dr. Richter will connect the story of Ruth to the whole Bible and will relate how the story of Ruth is still speaking to us today.

Several members of the class rotate leading the lessons. If you are looking for Bible study and fellowship, we invite you to join the Seekers in the senior high room at 8:45 each Sunday. You will be welcomed.

## Presbyterian Women's Fundraiser Lunch

The Presbyterian Women would like to thank the congregation for their generous support of the PW lunch and fundraiser.



The following items are highlights from the Nov. 20, 2024, Stated Session Meeting:

1. The November Stated Session Meeting was held on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.
2. The meeting was opened with a devotional led by John Jordan on Thanksgiving.
3. Stu Strong presented a report on the Fall Meeting of North Alabama Presbytery held at Camp Maranatha on October 15, 2024.
4. The Session set the dates for two Congregational Meetings which will be held immediately following Sunday morning worship. The first will be on December 8 for the purposes of voting on new elders and nominating committee members for the Class of 2027 and to approve changes to the pastor's terms of call for 2025. The second will be on January 19, 2025, for the purpose of hearing reports on 2024 activities of the church and to receive the budget for 2025.
5. Two Elders will be leaving the Session as their terms of the Class of 2024 come to an end. They are Faye Anderson and Bob Naumann. We thank both of them for all their contributions to the life of our congregation over their years of service as Ruling Elders.
6. The minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of September 18, 2024, were approved.
7. October year to date income was \$1,495 less than budgeted and expenses were \$1,885 less than budgeted. Our checking and saving accounts increased by \$14,723 since the first of the year.
8. Bob Naumann reported that we have cut down and removed a dead tree, repaired an A/C unit in the last couple of weeks, and he is in the process of getting a quotation to replace the liner in the church fountain.
9. B. J. Breeding reminded us that Tripp will be leading a Chat and Chew Advent Study on three consecutive Monday mornings starting on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Each session will last from 11:30 to 12:30.
10. Faye Anderson reminded us that the church will be decorated for Advent on Monday, November 25 at 9:00 am and the decorations will be removed on January 6, 2025.
11. Barb Mouton and John Jordan updated us on Mission work. Peace and Global Witness offering collected \$615. Turkeys have been ordered, purses have been collected for Hope Place and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter donations to local charities have been made.
12. Linda Grissom informed us that we will have a new banner in the sanctuary for Advent. Our worship leader for Nov. 24th will be Ted Dixie of Fellowship church in Huntsville.
13. Rev. Brogdon led us in another installment of the Session Visioning and Discernment process that we are working on this year. This time we focused on the use of a structured Advent Prayer Guide to help each of the Session members pray daily and journal our thoughts as we collectively seek to discern God's will for St. Andrew.

The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 2:00 pm.

# CCC FOOD PANTRY

## Collection the 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:Tripp@standrewdecatour.org)  
[churchoffice@standrewdecatour.org](mailto:churchoffice@standrewdecatour.org)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Min. for Mission - Christmas Joy	2 11:30-12:30 Chat "N" Chew Advent Study	3 10A PW	4 4:30P Choir 5:30P Hanging of the Green & Soup Dinner	5 10A-1P DAR 1P Caring Hands	6	7 11A DAR (need projector)
8 Congregational Meeting	9 HAD Lunch 11:30A-12:30P Chat "N" Chew Advent Study	10	11 4:30P Choir 1P CE Meeting	12	13	14 Set up for Christmas Brunch 10A
15 Christmas Brunch 8:45A	16 11:30-12:30 Chat "N" Chew Advent Study	17	18	19 1P Caring Hands	20	21
22 Christmas Joy Offering	23	24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26 Church Office Closed	27	28
29	30 Church Office Closed	31 Church Office Closed				

## December Worship Leaders

December	1	8	15	22	24 PM	29
Liturgists	Barb Mouton	Harold Culbert	Faye Anderson	John Jordan	Harold Culbert	Linda Grissom
Ushers	Bob & Jackie Naumann	John & Shelly Shull	Cerese Sweeley & Harold Moore	Harold Culbert & Betty Matthews	John & Shelly Shull Bob & Jackie Naumann	Stu Strong & Barb Mouton
Nursery	Betty Matthews	Joan Jordan	Barb Mouton	Shelly Shull		Carol Strong
Communion Servers	December 1: Faye Anderson, BJ Breeding, Don Koza, Barb Mouton, Linda Grissom December 24: Harold Culbert					