



St. Andrew,

As most of you know, my wonderful grandmother “B” died in August. She was two months shy of her 101st birthday. She enjoyed a full century of living, loving, and leaving her mark on this world.

And you know what? Even when you know it's coming... even when someone has lived a beautifully long life, grief still finds a way to knock the wind out of you. I'm not alone in that feeling; we've all been there.

I'm not going to pretend that I have handled it all with grace and composure. There were tears, there are still tears, there have been moments of sitting on the couch staring at nothing, and there have been nights when sleep felt impossible.

But in the midst of my grief, something miraculous happened: my community... you... showed up for me.

It wasn't in some grand, orchestrated way. There wasn't fanfare or loud announcements. You just steadily showed up, the way that St. Andrew has always shown up.

Someone brought a meal. Someone else sent a text that simply said, "Praying for you today." A card arrived in the mail, a phone call came, and a hug was offered after worship. These are small things... ordinary things... things that might seem insignificant if you weren't the one receiving them.

But when you're grieving, those small things become big things... extraordinary things... things that mean the world to the one receiving them. Sometimes the best thing we can do is to just show up, with the ministry of our presence.

My grandmother lived through a century of changes. She saw technology transform the world, she witnessed wars and peace, and she experienced loss and celebration. But what she talked about the most was the Triune God who loved her, her family who loved her, and her church family that always showed up.

Community isn't complicated, even when grief is present. It's a casserole when words fail. It's a text message at just the right moment. It's the knowledge that you don't have to walk through the hard stuff alone.

When we show up for each other... in the big moments and the small ones... we reflect the very heart of God.

So thank you. Thank you for being the kind of church that shows up.

**Grace and peace,
Tripp**

St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Leaders 2025.....	Chairperson
Clerk of Session	Stu Strong
Building/Grounds	Stu Strong
Communications & Outreach	Rev. Tripp
Education & Spiritual Formation	B. J. Breeding
Finance & Administration	Don Koza
Member Care.....	D. Ann Norris & Jackie Naumann
Mission	Barbara Mouton & John Jordan
Treasurer	Philip Gilbert
Nominating.....	Shelly Shull
Worship	Linda Grissom
Comptroller	Tommy Gates



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



**Hands Across Decatur
Soup Kitchen
Monday,
October 13, 2025**

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

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.



MEET THE CHOIR

Linda Faulk

I was born in Atlanta, Georgia, then my family moved to Decatur when I was 6 months old. I have always considered Decatur to be my home even though we moved around between Kansas, Alabama, and Georgia starting in the second grade. We moved back to Decatur for my senior year in high school and I graduated from Decatur High.

Many of you know my siblings- Ceil Hydrick is a member of St. Andrew, Cynthia Younger participated in the formation of Grace Presbyterian in Madison and now lives in Washington State, and last, but not least, Tom Lewis, who is currently pastor of Copeland Presbyterian in Limestone County. I am 3rd in line. I graduated from the University of Georgia in 1982, taught in Georgia for a year, then moved back to Decatur where I met my husband of 40 years, Roger, in June 1984. We married June 8, 1985 at First Presbyterian Church in Decatur. Our first daughter, Beth, was born in January 1987 and our second daughter, Melissa, in August 1990. During this time, Roger and I were members of Covenant Presbyterian and Roger and both girls were baptized there. Both of our daughters are married. Beth and her husband are currently living in France due to his job, and Melissa and her husband live in Huntsville. We were so excited to welcome our first grandchild this year. Melissa and Logan's daughter, Caroline, was born in July, and we are crazy about her!

I recently retired after 43 years as a Special Educator where I taught children from ages 3-21 with mild to severe developmental disabilities including Autism. In addition to my B.S. in Education from UGA, I have additional certification from the University of Alabama, and Master's and Educational Specialist degrees from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. I worked for Clarke County (GA) schools, Decatur City Schools, Madison City Schools, Fayetteville City Schools (TN), and Giles County Schools (TN) serving in teaching and administrative positions until I finally retired in June. I have also done private contract work, evaluation, and tutoring for North Alabama Schools and worked as an adjunct instructor for Athens State University where I taught part-time and supervised student teachers.

Music has always been an important part of my life. Our parents loved music. My mother readily admitted that she could not carry a tune, and she always said she did not know where she got children that could sing. She always wanted to sing so she made sure we all took piano lessons and supported our participation in church and school choirs. The piano lessons did not stick, but we did learn to read and appreciate music. I have sung in church choirs from the time I was a little girl and then in the adult choir off and on since high school. During high school I also started assisting with children's choir and sang in the school chorus. While attending the University of Georgia I sang in the Women's Glee Club for 3 years and played guitar at the Presbyterian Student Center. As an adult I especially enjoyed serving as music staff for Cursillo weekends where I played guitar and sang with other musicians. I love to make a joyful noise!

Over the years I have been active in a variety of church activities in addition to singing in the choir including teaching Sunday School and Vacation Bible School, leading Youth Group, directing children's choir and programs, serving as a Stephen Minister, serving as Moderator of Tennessee Valley Presbyterian Cursillo and serving as a moderator of Copeland Presbyterian's Presbyterian Women as well as an Elder and Copeland's Clerk of Session. I continue to serve at the North Alabama Presbytery level as Historian of Presbyterian Women.

I have a variety of hobbies including playing my guitar and reading, but I especially enjoy cross stitch and other needlework as well as paper crafts. I enjoy spending time with my family and my favorite interest right now is spending time with my granddaughter.



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.

CHOIR *Practice*

Wednesday

October
8th & 22nd
4:30 PM



Presbyterian Women's Luncheon Sunday, October 26, 2025



Are you ready for some good food? PW will be hosting a casserole lunch after church on October 26, 2025. The meal is free with donations accepted. The donations received will be used to fund our mission projects: Living Water, Hope Place, Presbyterian Towers, Presbyterian Children's Home, Mission Haven, and more. Come enjoy the food and donate to a special cause.



Church Security/Action Team

A Word about Church Security.

With so much in the news recently with both church and school shootings, it is only natural to be concerned and to wonder what your church is doing to help protect us while in worship on Sunday mornings.

Your safety team has a plan and protocol in place should an event occur, which includes locking down the sanctuary and contacting law enforcement. Many of the folks sitting in the pews with you have volunteered to help in this effort, and have been faithful in their duties to learn and train.

With that in mind, the next Training Refresher and Walk Through will take place on Wednesday, October 8th immediately following the Cookout that evening. If you would like to serve on the Safety Team or have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Tripp or to W.C. Sweeley.



CHURCH COOKOUT



This year we are going back in time to the 1950's and 1960's. Dress for your favorite era. Come join the fun on Wednesday, October 8th at 5:30 p.m.

The church will provide all of the food and drinks.

You can sign up by texting COOKOUT to 256-804-0363, scan the QR code or the sign-up sheet in the church office.



The following items are highlights of the September 24, 2025, Stated Session Meeting:

- 1. The September Stated Session Meeting was held on Wed., September 24, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.**
- 2. The meeting was opened with a devotional led by Shelly Shull on Matthew 25:6.**
- 3. John Jordan was elected to be our commissioner to the Fall Meeting of North Alabama Presbytery which will be held at Camp Maranatha on October 21, 2025.**
- 4. The minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of July 16, 2025, were approved as amended and the minutes of the Called Session Meeting on August 10, 2025, were approved as issued.**
- 5. August year to date income was \$2,365 less than budgeted and expenses were \$19,794 less than budgeted. Our checking and saving accounts increased by \$42,364 since the first of the year.**
- 6. Building and grounds team cut down and removed 3 trees, installed a new lockable mailbox, and new LED lights are being considered for the kitchen.**
- 7. B. J. Breeding reminded us that on October 8 we will have our annual cookout and on November 12, 2025, Tripp will be leading a Bible study.**
- 8. Jackie Naumann reminded us that the CATS trip to the Old Cookstove is Friday, and our church picnic will, be on October 8, 2025. Christmas brunch will be on Sunday, December 21, 2025.**
- 9. Barb Mouton and John Jordan updated us on mission work. We provided over 300 packs of paper and spiral bound notebooks for the Decatur City School and Decatur Youth Services school supply drive,. We plan to give our 25% of the Peace and Global Witness offering to NCC's Nehemiah Home for single mothers and their children. We plan to pack our Thanksgiving dinners after worship on Sunday, November 23, 2025. On Sunday, September 28, 2025, Barb will do a "Minute for Mission" on St. Andrew's metal recycling program which benefits Habitat for Humanity of Morgan County, and will be handing out bags for home collection to worshipers that Sunday.**
- 10. As we continue to be blessed as a church, the Session, acting on a recommendation from the Mission Team, voted to give \$20,000 to the Morgan County Child Advocacy Center for new equipment for their facility to better serve youth and help them avoid having to send Decatur youth to Huntsville for services that they have previously been unable to provide in Decatur.**
- 11. Linda Grissom informed us that World Communion Sunday will be celebrated on October 5, 2025, and that Rev. Laura Lemley will lead us in worship on October 12, 2025, when Rev. Brogdon will be taking his remaining study leave for the year.**
- 12. Nellie Gates discussed her ongoing work to update church policies. So far, she has met with the Education and Member Care teams.**
- 13. Rev. Brogdon led us in another installment of the Session Visioning and Discernment process. This time we reviewed a survey which highlighted what is important to young adult parents regarding beliefs, actions, and the role of the church when it comes to raising children in these trying times.**
- 14. The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, November 19, 2025, at 2:00 pm.**

Stu Strong, Clerk of Session

**The CATS took a trip to Danville, Al. to eat at The Old CookStove.
They had a great time!**





GET YOUR CANS TO CHURCH!!!



ST. ANDREW WILL RECYCLE THEM AND DONATE
THE MONEY TO HABITAT FOR HUMANITY!

SAVE ANY KIND OF SCRAP METAL, LARGE*
OR SMALL, AND ANY KIND OF ALUMINUM OR
METAL CANS. RINSE THE CANS OUT AND
REMOVE THE LABELS. BRING THEM TO THE
CHURCH KITCHEN OR PUT THEM IN ONE OF
OUR RECYCLING BINS.

SAVE OUR PLANET'S LANDFILL WHILE HELPING
A FAMILY BUY A HOME. WHAT A
GOOD THING TO DO!

*LEAVE A MESSAGE WITH THE CHURCH OFFICE
FOR LARGE ITEMS TO BE PICKED UP.



CONNECT

FALL & WINTER SCHEDULE

OCT 8	NOV 12	DEC 10	JAN 14	FEB 11
5:30 PM Cookout	5:30 PM CONNECT Bible Study w/Rev. Tripp	5:30 PM CONNECT w/Brandi Breeden Clothe Our Kids	5:30 PM CONNECT Bible Study w/Rev. Tripp	5:30 PM CONNECT Bible Study w/Rev. Tripp

During the months of September - March, we will meet only once a month, typically, the second Wednesday night.

Café Connect

8:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Fellowship Hall

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



**PURSUE WHAT
MAKES FOR PEACE.**

ROMANS 14:19

 **PEACE & GLOBAL WITNESS**
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
PEACEMAKING AND RECONCILIATION

9/7-10/5 2025



What a great meeting PW had in September! If you were unable to attend, you will have an opportunity to join us this month in the Fellowship Hall. The lesson is “Mary of a Certain Village”. The main idea of the lesson is how “spending time listening and learning from Jesus” is important to our joy and resilience in daily life. Come and join us October 7th at 10:00 a.m.

Thank you for your participation in the Sleep In Heavenly Peace project. As of September 29th, we have collected 19 sheet sets and 3 pillows. You have helped put a smile on children’s faces.

October’s mission project is Socks for the Homeless. Please put a pair of socks in a ziplock bag and place them in the designated bin at the donation location. The ziplock bag helps keep the socks fresh until they are needed.

Ceil Hydrick, Linda Faulk and Barb Mouton recently taught a class on card making at Presbyterian Towers. Everyone had a great time.



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! All supplies are provided. We also knit or crochet shawls for Hospice and the Cancer Institute.



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

OCTOBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 1P Caring Hands	3	4
5 Peace and Global Witness Offering World Communion Sunday	6 Rev. Tripp Continuing Education	7 10A PW 6-8P Civic Chorus Rev. Tripp CE	8 4:30P Choir 5:30P Cookout Action Meeting after Cookout Rev. Tripp CE	9 11A DAR Rev. Tripp CE	10 Rev. Tripp CE	11 Rev. Tripp CE
12 Rev. Tripp CE	13 HAD Rev, Tripp CE	14 6-8P CC	15	16 1P Caring Hands	17	18 9:30a-11:30a DMC Meeting (Sanct.)
19	20	21 6-8P CC	22 10A Mission Comm. Meeting 4:30P Choir	23	24	25 8A-12P DMC Jr. Hymn Festival
26 PW Luncheon following service (FH)	27	28 6-8P CC	29	30	31	

October Worship Leaders

October	5	12	19	26
Liturgists	Stu Strong	Linda Grissom	Barb Mouton	Don Koza
Ushers	Lynn Panter & Gillian Buttgereit	Betty Matthews & Stu Strong	Cerese Sweeley & Harold Moore	Bob Naumann & Barb Mouton
Nursery	Betty Matthews	Carol Strong	Lynn Panter	Gillian Buttgereit
	Communion Server	Stu Strong, Nellie Gates, B.J. Breeding, Jackie Naumann & Linda Grissom		