



St. Andrew,

Advent always sneaks up on me. Halloween and Thanksgiving are now in our rearview mirrors, and the world is rushing toward Christmas. In the midst of this holiday rush, the church asks us to wait.

But Advent isn't just about slowing down, though heaven knows we could all use a little of that. Advent is about preparing our hearts for possibly the most astonishing claim of our faith: that God became human. As Eugene Peterson puts it, "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood." The Creator of the galaxies decided the best way to reach us was to show up as a vulnerable baby.

This is the heart of the theology of the incarnation. God doesn't send instructions from a distance or shout directions from heaven. Instead, God comes close. God takes on flesh like ours, experiences what we experience, and feels what we feel.

I think this is why Advent matters so much, especially in years when the world feels heavy. If this is a year when you're worried about loved ones, when grief sits at your table, when the news exhausts you, or when you wonder if God is paying attention, remember that Advent reminds us that God doesn't love us from afar. God loves us from right next to us. After all, Jesus is Emmanuel, God-with-us, and he has become one of us, entering into our sufferings, our joys, and our ordinary lives.

As we move through Advent toward Christmas, I hope we can resist the temptation to rush. Instead, let's sit with the mystery of incarnation. Let's marvel at a God who thought the best way to save the world was to join it.

The God who showed up in Bethlehem is the same God who shows up here, now, with us. That is worth waiting for, and that is worth celebrating.

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



Sharon Thomson 10
 Tommy Gates 17
 Jim Wright 19

David & Cheryl Ellerbe 22

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



(So that visitors, new members, and even long-time members of St. Andrew get to know us a little better, this column features 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!)

Paul Martin

I was born in Decatur to Bill and Barbara Martin. Mom worked at Monsanto so everyone in town knew her. Many of your current members knew or worked with my Mom and mention her fondly. My Granny Martin was best friends with Katherine Hopper and she was very dear to me. It warmed my heart to see her name over the door of the church library. I am a proud graduate of the University of Alabama (Roll Tide). For the past 25 years I have sold insurance, annuities and long-term care. I love to sing and have done so since Decatur High School Chorus. I have been fortunate to sing with many churches: St. John's Evangelical Protestant Church in Cullman, Cullman First United Methodist, Decatur First United Methodist, Decatur Central United Methodist, and now St. Andrew Presbyterian.

This is my 16th year portraying Santa, and it has become a wonderful part of my life. My wife Elizabeth understands the last two months of the year are my busy season. My kids, Sara, Will and Foster enjoy telling people that their Dad is Santa. I will be going to Panama City soon to get Santa photos with my new grandson, Benjamin. I would be remiss if I didn't mention our little dog Frankie who makes sure I get up at 5:45 a.m. everyday.

I would like to thank everyone for the warm welcome we have received. - Paul



PICTURES WITH SANTA!

DECEMBER 7, 2025

CHILDREN: 11:00-2:00 PETS: 2:00-3:00

The Carnegie- 207 Church St, Decatur



PRESENTED BY:



**THE DAWES
TEAM**
eXp Realty®

256-227-5640

For \$20 you can have up to 5 minutes to take pictures with Santa on your phone or camera. Children will also get to make and take a Christmas Ornament!
Pay with cash, check or Venmo @fosterzmom



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.

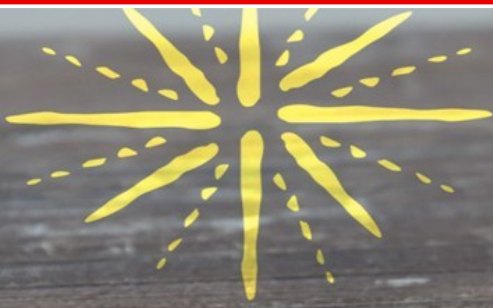
CHOIR
Practice
Wednesday
December
10th
4:30 PM

Worship Committee

Chat n' Chew — Rev. Tripp will lead a three-week Bible study using the devotional, *Advent for Everyone: Matthew* by N.T. Wright. Bring a sack lunch and join us for fellowship and study on December 8, 15, and 22 from 11:30 – 12:30 in the fellowship hall.

CONNECT — On Wednesday, December 10 at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall, we will welcome Kayla Kretzer, interim director of Clothe Our Kids of North Alabama. Clothe Our Kids, whose mission is to provide clothing and shoes to children in need in Morgan and Lawrence County, is a ministry of First Priority of Greater Decatur, a student-led and student-organized ministry.





Chat "N" Chew Advent Bible Study

December 8, 15, and 22 from
11:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall
Bring your own lunch

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

4:00 PM



Christmas Brunch
Sunday, December 21 at 8:45am
Fellowship Hall

A sign up sheet for decorating tables will
be available soon!

CONNECT

DECEMBER SCHEDULE

DEC. 10

**5:30 PM
CONNECT
w/ Kayla Krezter
Clothe Our Kids**

Thank you DAR for providing breakfast for our military Veterans.



**Christmas Season is here. Merry Christmas from
Presbyterian Women!**

We are very thankful for your support of our luncheon and the donation you made to our mission projects. We will meet on December 2, 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. The lesson will be lead by Barbara Allen and is "The Prodigal Child, the Eldest Child, and the Devoted Parent: (Luke 15:11-32). Sounds interesting, so why don't you join us, if you have not already attended. After the meeting we will enjoy our fellowship by going to lunch at Fulin's. If you would like to go to lunch, please let Nellie Gates know by December 1. Our projects for December will focus on those in our congregation who need an extra "pick me up" by sending them a card and Christmas items for our sponsored foster children. During this busy time of the year let us not forget why we are celebrating, the birth of Jesus.

Merry Christmas!



Christmas Joy Offering - Sunday, December 21

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we reflect God's perfect gift to us, with generous support of church leaders among us — past, present and future — who have pointed us to God. We honor and celebrate leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us but who now find themselves in critical financial need. We honor and celebrate emerging leaders like students in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, who develop leadership skills as they pursue their education and prepare to bring their gifts in service to the world God loves so much.



Hands Across Decatur Soup Kitchen

Monday, December 8, 2025

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



CARING HANDS MINISTRY

Meets December 4th
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.

The following items are highlights of the November 19, 2025, Stated Session Meeting:

- 1) The September Stated Session Meeting was held on Wed., November 19, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. In the absence of Clerk, Stu Strong, Linda Grissom was elected as Temporary Clerk.
- 2) The opening devotional on "Love in Action" was given by D. Ann Norris and was based on Romans 12:9-18.
- 3) A Congregational Meeting was scheduled for December 14, 2025, to elect Elders and members of the Nominating Committee for the Classes of 2028. Our Annual Corporation Meeting for the congregation was scheduled for January 25, 2026. At that meeting, the Budget for 2026 will be presented.
- 4) Elder John Jordan presented a report on the Fall Stated Meeting of the North Alabama Presbytery held on October 21, 2025, at Camp Maranatha. The offering collected during the worship service was donated to the Presbyterian Home for Children.
- 5) The minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of September 24, 2025, were approved as amended.
- 6) October year to date income was \$3,179 more than budgeted and expenses were \$2,969 less than budgeted. Our checking and saving accounts increased by \$37,385 since the first of the year. Pledges are coming in for 2026 and elders are working on their committees' budget needs for 2026.
- 7) Building and grounds team cut down and removed additional dead trees and the hedges around the church have been trimmed. Ways to prevent cars from driving on the grass are being considered.
- 8) B. J. Breeding announced the following Connect programs: December 10th with speaker Kayla Kretzer from Clothe Our Kids and January 14th led by Linda Grissom. Advent Bible studies will be held on December 8th, 15th, and 22nd from 11:30 -12:30.
- 9) Rev. Brogdon will be working on ways to use more social media to increase St. Andrew's online presence.
- 10) Jackie Naumann reported on her Shepherd Group luncheon, and we were reminded that church decoration will be on November 24th. Christmas brunch will be on Sunday, December 21, 2025, at 8:45 am and members will be able to sign up to decorate tables.
- 11) John Jordan announced that our Joy Gift Offering will be on Sunday, December 21st. We are able to purchase extra turkeys and meals for Thanksgiving distribution due to the generous donations for this effort. The committee visited the Morgan County Child Advocacy Center and were impressed with their work. Barb Mouton presented the committee's goals and plans for 2026. Betty Matthews will do a "Minute for Mission" on the Presbyterian Giving Catalog, and it was reported that our recycling program participation has increased.
- 12) Linda Grissom reminded us of important dates in December including the Christmas Eve service with communion and candlelight. Poinsettias will arrive during the first week of December.
- 13) Rev. Brogdon explained his feelings on the visioning process we have undertaken thus far. He will be devoting time and prayer on how we can reset and continue after the first of the year. The session will be supporting him with our prayers and thoughts on how we can proceed.

The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at 2:00 pm.
Stu Strong, Clerk of Session



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

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10A PW	3	4 11A DAR 1P Caring Hands	5	6
7	8 HAD Lunch 11:30A Chat N Chew	9	10 4:30P Choir 5:30P CONNECT Clothe Our Kids	11	12	13
14 Congregational Meeting After Worship	15 11:30A Chat N Chew	16 1P Choir Christmas Caroling	17	18	19	20
21 No SS 8:45A Christmas Brunch Christmas Joy Offering	22 11:30A Chat N Chew	23	24 4P Christmas Eve Candlelight Service Church Office Closed	25 Christmas Day Church Office Closed	26	27
28	29	30	31 Church Office Closed			

December Worship Leaders

December	7	14	21	24 PM	28
Liturgists	B.J. Breeding	Bob Naumann	Linda Grissom	Nellie Gates	Nellie Gates
Ushers	Lynn Panter & Gillian Buttgereit	Harold Moore & Don Koza	Cerese Sweeley & Doug Coshow	Bob & Jackie Naumann & John & Shelly Shull	Stu Strong & Don Foster
Nursery	Barb Mouton	Betty Matthews	Gillian Buttgereit	Carol Strong	Joan Jordan
Communion Servers	December 7: Tom Meier, B.J. Breeding (L), Don Koza, Jackie Naumann & Nellie Gates December 24: Linda Grissom, Nellie Gates, John Jordan				