



St. Andrew,

There's something powerful about journeys, isn't there? The way they transform us as we move from one place to another. Our church has been exploring this idea through our "God on the Move" sermon series, and by mid-April, we will find ourselves at a particularly meaningful juncture: the transition from Lent to Easter.

Lent invites us into a reflective space. It's like hiking up a mountain in the early morning darkness. The path is challenging and often uncomfortable. We're asked to examine ourselves honestly, to acknowledge our shortcomings, and to feel the weight of our humanity. We give things up or take new practices on, not as spiritual performances, but as ways to clear the path between ourselves and God.

I've always been struck by how the church calendar doesn't rush us through these difficult spaces. We're given forty days to sit with our limitations, our mortality, and our need for grace. In a world that's always telling us to hurry, to skip to the good part, Lent whispers, "Stay here awhile. There's something to learn in this space."

And then comes Easter, like the sunrise breaking over the mountain peak after a long climb.

In Luke 24:1, we read that the women went to Jesus' tomb "on the first day of the week, at early dawn." I love that detail. It wasn't in the full brightness of day, but in that transitional space where night is giving way to morning.. where endings become beginnings.

That's the journey we're on right now, moving with God from the sacred shadows of Lent toward the radiant light of resurrection... from ashes to alleluias... from "remember that you are dust" to "He is risen indeed!"

As we navigate these final weeks of the Lenten season and prepare our hearts for Easter, I invite us all to pay attention to how God is moving in our lives. In what ways is God calling you from darkness into light? What needs to be left in the tomb so that new life can emerge?

The journey continues, my friends. And Easter reminds us that with God, new beginnings are always possible, even when... especially when... we least expect them.

Grace and peace,

Tripp

St. Andrew Elders & Ministry Leaders 2025	Chairperson
Clerk of Session.....	Stuart Strong
Building/Grounds.....	
Communications & Outreach.....	
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



Ceil Hydrick	7
Connie Lawton	7
Samuel Shull	12
Doug Coshow	22
Roger Faulk	24
Keith Abbott	28

Ronnie & Lorrie Smallwood	12
W.C. & Cerese Sweeley	24

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.

Clothing, sheets, blankets, sleeping bags, tents, tarps, coats, gloves, socks, bikes, etc. are all welcome.



HOMELESS
Ministry

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.



Hands Across Decatur Soup Kitchen

Monday, April 14th

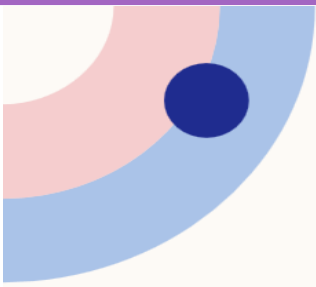
Menu: ham, greens, and yams

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

CHOIR
Practice
Wednesday
April
9th & 23rd
4:30 PM

Bible Study Drop Box

Is there a topic you've always wanted to know more about? Is there a question you've always been hesitant or scared to ask in church? It can be anything! You can now ask it anonymously through a drop box located on the table right outside the office. Each month during our Wednesday CONNECT Bible Studies in 2025, Tripp will choose one of your questions as the topic, so ask away!



CONNECT

APRIL SCHEDULE

APRIL 9

APRIL 23

5:30 PM
CONNECT w/Ceil Hydrick
“What Does It Mean To Live
In The Joy Of The Lord?”

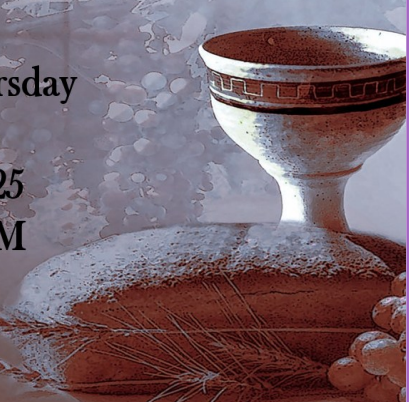
6:30 PM
Pack Easter Dinners

5:30 PM
Movie Night



Chat "N" Chew
Lent Bible Study
April 7th
11:30am-12:30pm
In the Fellowship Hall
Bring your own lunch.

Maundy Thursday
Service
April 17, 2025
at 6:00 PM



Flowering of the Cross

Bring real or artificial
flowers to
decorate the cross on
Easter Sunday.


Please place flowers on the
cross near the fountain

“Waypoint to the Cross”

April 16th & 17th

10:00 AM-4:00 PM

In the Fellowship Hall



We invite you to come and experience “Waypoints to the Cross” during Holy Week. This will be a unique and interactive experience that will include some new elements this year! On each table, the visual story of Jesus’ journey to the cross will be displayed in pictures, along with a written description of each waypoint. A waypoint is another name for a stopping place on a journey. In this case, each waypoint will be a stop along the way that points to the cross. There will be 14 total waypoints, beginning with the anointing of Jesus by Mary in Bethany and ending with Jesus’ body being placed in the tomb.

Your journey is self-paced, and you may stay as long as you like. There will be a couple of chairs at each table. This personal experience can be deeply moving and humbling as you come to a deeper understanding of the awful, but beautiful sacrifice Jesus made for you.

This reverent experience will be available in the Fellowship Hall:

- Wednesday, April 16th from 10am to 4pm
- Maundy Thursday, April 17th from 10am to 4pm

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering Giving Sunday is April 20th



This Lenten season, please give generously to
One Great Hour of Sharing.

Every gift makes a difference in the life
of the most vulnerable of God's people.

IF WE ALL DO A LITTLE, IT ADDS UP TO A LOT!

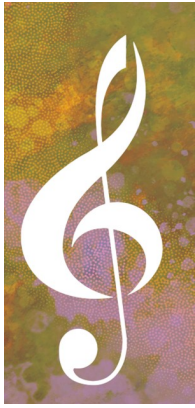


Tennessee Valley Outreach Mission Golf Tournament

On Monday, April 14th, 2025, Tennessee Valley Outreach will host its 21st Annual Golf Tournament at Burningtrees Country Club in Decatur, Alabama. Registration fee is \$125 per person or \$500 per team (cost includes lunch, non-alcoholic beverages, green fees, cart fees, 2 Mulligans and 1 Power Drive). TVO will also be giving away numerous door prizes. Sign-in will begin at 11:00 a.m.; lunch will be served from 11:30-12:30 with a shotgun start at 1:00 p.m.

All proceeds from this event will go to provide food, clothing, and shelter for the homeless, hungry, and hurting individuals who call the Tennessee Valley Outreach Mission home and to support programs to help break the cycle of homelessness in their lives.

More information is available on the bulletin board and in the church office.



MEET THE CHOIR

Faye Anderson

I grew up in Lake Charles, Louisiana. My family belonged to Boulevard Baptist Church, and my interest in music began in the church Youth Choir. In addition to choir, church kept me and my 2 sisters and brother busy. In high school I participated in the girl's marching squad, the Gatorettes. The marching squad was a lot of fun as we marched and cheered at the football games. If it was an away game, we rode on the nice Greyhound Bus!

I attended the local college and majored in nursing. My church attendance and choir participation came to an end as I worked every weekend at the hospital. I was active in the Student Nursing Association, and as a senior I served as First Vice-President of the Louisiana Student Nurses Association. I met my future husband (Andy) one weekend working at the local Catholic hospital. He was a medic at the local Air Force Base. After a tour of duty in Morocco, he came home, we married, I graduated, and we moved to his hometown of Pascagoula, MS. There we went to his church, Eastlawn Methodist, and joined the choir. After a couple of years, he was asked to lead the choir. Even though he could not read music, he had natural ability in music and led the choir for 13 years! Our children, Lisa and Christi, were born in Pascagoula and grew up there.

I worked in hospitals and the community college in the area. I served two terms as President of the Mississippi Nurses Association and became active in accreditation activities for college nursing programs and hospital nursing recognition programs. I also continued my education as I wanted to eventually teach in a university. I obtained a master's in nursing at the University of Southern Mississippi and a doctorate in Nursing Administration at LSU.

In 2003, Andy and I moved to Decatur to be near the three grandsons. We visited St. Andrew a few weeks after we settled in and soon joined the church and choir! We felt the love and kindness of the members the first time we visited. I also took that desired university teaching job at UAH College of Nursing. Unfortunately, Andy's heart gave out the next year, but I had family and wonderful special friends at St. Andrew for support.

An interesting fact about me – I was installed in the Mississippi Nurses Association Hall of Fame in 2013. That is an honor I cherish.

(This column is an introduction to the members of St. Andrew's choir. We hope you have enjoyed getting to know a little more about us! If you enjoy music and love to sing, we invite you to come to one of our practices for a visit. Our normal practices are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 4:30 in the sanctuary. A Bible study or a program usually follows choir practice at 5:30 in the fellowship hall.)

Proposed Shepherd List 2025

<p>Nellie Gates (Tommy)</p> <p>Harold and Teresa Culbert Leslie Matthews Jimmy, Debbie, Andrew, and Samantha Simmons Don & Sheila Koza Linda Webster</p>	<p>BJ Breeding (Don)</p> <p>Barbara Allen John and Sara Bush Anne Campbell Bill Heim Ceil Hydrick Lynn Panter</p>
<p>Linda Grissom</p> <p>Dave and Cheryl Ellerbe Roger and Linda Faulk Jeff Gilbreath Mavis Stephens Jeremy, Gretchen, Abby, and Ella Stephens</p>	<p>John Jordan (Joan)</p> <p>Doug and Jean Coshow Linda Livingston Jimmie Wright Harold and Donna Moore Parker Vandine</p>
<p>Barb Mouton</p> <p>Gillian Buttgerit Alan and Sheila Chapman Kayse Sharp and Hope Grissom Barbara Wyle</p>	<p>Jackie Naumann (Bob)</p> <p>George Hilleary WC and Cerese Sweeley Jane Lowery Sylvia Newbill Shelly Vinzant and Robert Sumner Keith Abbott</p>
<p>D. Ann Norris</p> <p>John and Betty Brandon Faye Anderson Bob Martin Bob and Connie Lawton Turner and Betty Matthews</p>	<p>Shelly Shull (John)</p> <p>Jacob Shull (Joanie, Samuel) John and Rita Abbott Ron and Lorrie Smallwood Tom and Bobbie Meier Lee and Addi Zeiher</p>
<p>Stu Strong (Carol)</p> <p>Tom Caddell Wilks Taylor Don and Jan Foster Philip and Nelda Gilbert Bob and Genie Sparks</p>	



Easter Dinner Collection

This Easter we will be providing Easter dinner kits for 50 families. Each kit will consist of an 8-10 pound spiral cut ham and all the groceries needed to prepare a home-cooked family dinner. Donations to cover the cost of the hams and additional groceries can be placed in the Easter ham's envelope in the church office (make checks payable to SAPC). The cost of each ham will be approximately \$20-\$24. If you prefer us to purchase the groceries for you, the cost for groceries for one meal is approximately \$20. If

we have any surplus money after all the costs are met, we will buy and distribute additional meals.

Donated groceries should be placed in the designated area at the Donation Station outside of the Fellowship Hall.

The donation food list for one meal is as follows (2 cans of any size per meal).

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| 2 Canned Corn | 2 Canned Fruit |
| 2 Canned Green Beans | 1 Boxed Potatoes |
| 2 Canned Candied Yams | 1 Boxed Dessert (if a cake, bring frosting) |

Easter Flowers

Donations may be made in the church office.

If the donation is in memory or in honor of someone, please complete the form.

Deadline is Sunday,
April 13th.



ADAM HAMILTON

Author of Half Truths and Lies

CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS

REVISED EDITION



QUESTIONS WE ASK ABOUT OTHER FAITHS

Seekers Sunday School

The Seekers Sunday school class invites you to join us in the senior high room as we begin Adam Hamilton's study, *Christianity and World Religions* on March 30, 8:45 a.m. During the study, we will be examining four major world religions—Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, and Judaism—and comparing the beliefs of each with those of Christianity. Everyone is welcome.



Presbyterian Women's Meeting

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

at 10:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall

Lesson: "Intergenerational Justice"

Leader: Cheryl Ellerbe

All Ladies Welcome!



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. No skills needed; we will teach you.



Café Connect

8:00 AM to 9:50 AM

Fellowship Hall

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



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

- 1. The March Stated Session Meeting was held on Wed., March 19, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.**
- 2. The meeting was opened with a devotional led by B. J. Breeding on mending nets.**
- 3. B. J. Breeding reported on the Called Meeting of North Alabama Presbytery (NAP) held on January 13, 2025. Rev. Bob Phelps was elected as our new Executive Presbyter.**
- 4. D. Ann Norris reported on the events of the Winter Meeting of North Alabama Presbytery held at Copeland Presbyterian Church on February 22, 2025.**
- 5. The minutes of the Stated Session Meeting of January 15, 2025, the Congregational Meeting of January 19, 2025, and the Called Meeting of February 9, 2025, were approved.**
- 6. The Session confirmed the email vote taken on February 2, 2025, to approve the 2024 Church Statistical Report as submitted by Stu Strong. This report was submitted to the PCUSA on February 3, 2025.**
- 7. February year to date income was \$8,959 more than budgeted and expenses were \$582 less than budgeted. Our checking and saving accounts increased by \$11,586 since the first of the year.**
- 8. Although Bob Naumann has gone off the Session, the Session agreed to give him leeway to suggest items which need to be addressed regarding the Building and Grounds and for him to work with Stu Strong regarding approvals for expenditures and any need for the Building and Grounds committee to have a meeting.**
- 9. B. J. Breeding reminded us that we will be having Bingo next Wednesday evening and the committee agreed to schedule one program a month September- March and to schedule two programs a month in April - August.**
- 10. Jackie Naumann and D. Ann Norris reported that Member Care is working on new ideas and is in the process of dividing up the work to be done. New shepherd group lists are being developed, more information will be provided at the next meeting.**
- 11. Barb Mouton and John Jordan updated us on Mission work. They are working with local agencies to tour facilities and strengthen our relationships. We will be providing 50 ham dinners during our Easter food drive. They will be distributed on April 14, at 9 am.**
- 12. Linda Grissom informed us that during Rev. Brogdon's absences, we will have Rev. Laura Lemley as pulpit supply on March 30th and Rev. Sandra Locke-Godbey on May 11th. Upcoming special services will be Palm Sunday on April 13th, Maundy Thursday / Good Friday service with communion on Thursday, April 17th, and Easter Sunday with communion on April 20th.**
- 13. Rev. Brogdon led us in another installment of the Session Visioning and Discernment process. This time we focused on a process to get us closer to actionable events.**
- 14. The next Stated meeting will be on Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 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

APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10A PW	2	3 11A DAR 1P Caring Hands	4	5
6 Last day to collect Easter dinners	7 11:30A-12:30P Chat "N" Chew	8	9 4:30P Choir 5:30P CONNECT w/ Ceil Hydric 6:30P Pack Easter Dinners	10	11	12
13 Last day for Easter flower donations	14 HAD Lunch	15	16 10A-4P Waypoints to the Cross	17 10A-4P Waypoints to the Cross 1P Caring Hands 6P Maundy Thurs. Service	18 Good Fri.	19
20 Easter OGHS Offering	21 Church office closed	22	23 4:30P Choir 5:30P Movie Night	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

April Worship Leaders

April	6	13	17	20	27
Liturgists	Bob Martin	Shelly Shull	Jackie Naumann	B.J. Breeding	D. Ann Norris
Ushers	Betty Matthews & Stu Strong	Doug Coshow & Harold Culbert	Don Foster	Cerese Sweeley & Harold Moore	Don Koza & Barb Mouton
Nursery	Carol Strong	Barb Mouton	Shelly Shull	Betty Matthews	Joan Jordan
Communion Servers	April 6: D. Ann Norris, B.J. Breeding, Don Koza, Barb Mouton & Linda Grissom April 17: Maundy Thursday – Jackie Naumann (L) April 20: Faye Anderson, B.J. Breeding (L), John Jordan, Stu Strong & Nellie Gates				