



# DECEMBER

Our Worship Service is  
every Sunday Morning at 10  
Sunday School is at 9

Childcare is provided on Sunday Mornings

December 3  
Hanging of the Greens 9 a  
Advent Festival 4-5 p  
Parent's Night Out 5:30-7:30 p

December 13  
The Longest Night Service 6:30p

December 17  
Lessons and Carols 6:30p

December 24  
Family Service 5p  
Candlelight Service 10:30p



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## From the Pastor

This season into which we have just embarked is meant to be filled with "Happy Thanksgiving" and "Merry Christmas" greetings. But for many, there is not much "happy" or "merry" to be found. If you have recently lost a loved one, received a frightening medical diagnosis, or are facing festivities separated by too many miles from those dearest to you, these days seem anything but jolly or bright.

Our congregation has experienced a great deal of loss in the past few months. Many among us are facing empty chairs at the family table. For those who have not felt the loss directly, we long to offer comfort and support to those who have. But so often we feel words fail us.

I am grateful that many more people are addressing these complicated emotions and offering helpful wisdom these days. A social worker and grief counselor friend of mine from Little Rock, Greg Adams, recently wrote about

[www.sapctucker.org](http://www.sapctucker.org)

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## Christmas on Main Street

On Saturday, December 2, join our Tucker neighbors to ring in the season at Christmas on Main. Volunteer to help children decorate Christmas ornaments at our booth on Main Street, and welcome their families to participate in SAPC's Advent activities. Come share the Good News of Christmas and the welcoming fellowship at St. Andrews with our community.

Volunteers are needed from 4-6:15 PM and 6:15-8:30 PM. [Sign up to help at this link](#), or click here contact [Paige Kubik](#) 404-895-4210.

how to face the holidays while grieving. He writes:

No time of year has more expectations and shoulds, both within and without, than holiday seasons. We get messages all around about how they are supposed to go. The foods to prepare and eat. Decorations that are required. Smiling family gatherings. Holidays which were intended to be meaningful times of remembrance and celebration can become gauntlets of expectations and activities.

Holidays don't have to be that way. They can be times where we pick and choose what is meaningful and worth doing. Where we look those voices of expectation in the eye and politely say, "No thank you, not this year. I only have so much time and so much energy, and I am guarding both like a soldier."

...The wisdom of grief can help us say "no" when it's not worth it, to say "yes" when it is, and to sort out the differences. There is a freedom to be found in grief, and it is one holiday (and life) invitation that deserves a "yes" in response.

Our calendars at church and in the rest of our lives fill up quickly this time of year. Most of those activities and events are meant to be fun and life-giving. But they aren't always. When you are already feeling the weight of loss the full calendar can feel even more like a burden. It is my hope that this year each of you will be able to navigate this holiday season by seeking out things that give you life. In this season, as the nights grow longer and the darkness lingers, we also want to offer our community a different kind of opportunity-a longest night worship service. On Wednesday, December 13th at 6:30pm in the sanctuary, we will hold this service of worship that will create a safe and sacred space for those who are struggling to feel the joy and light of the holiday season due to loss of any kind. Through visual art, poetry, prayer, song, and candle-lighting, as we approach the longest night of the year, we will pause from the hustle and bustle of the season to honor those who struggle and to witness to the light that shines in the darkness.

While you may need to say "no" to many opportunities in the weeks ahead, I hope you will find times when you can say "yes" to things that help center you this season and connect you to others and to the light that has come and is coming into this world.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Camille".

Camille



## Advent Series



Join us during the season of Advent as we explore the theme "Let There Be Light" through scripture.

December 3	<i>Let there Be Hope</i>	Mark 13:24-37
December 10	<i>Let there Be Peace</i>	Mark 1:1-8
December 17	<i>Let there Be Love</i>	John 1:6-8, 19-28
December 24	<i>Let there Be Joy</i>	Luke 1:46-55

Advent devotionals, "Let There Be Color," are available in the narthex and in the office. These devotionals include prayers, journal prompts, reflections, and coloring pages all inspired by our scripture texts for the season.

## Parents Night Out December 3rd

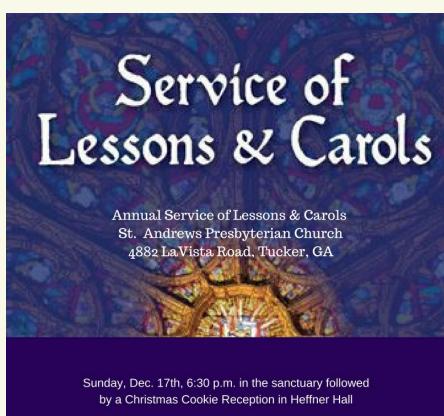
Parent's night out will be from 5:30-7:30 pm Sunday, December 3rd. There will be pizza, movies, games. We will watch children who are potty-trained through 5th grade. Check in will be in Heffner Hall.



No cost! Donations accepted to pay for food.

[Click here](#) to register your children for parent's night out; [click here](#) to sign up to help.

## Lessons and Carols



Sunday, December 17th at 6:30 p.m.  
A family candlelight Worship service of Scripture and Music

## Congregational Meeting 11:00 a.m. Sunday, December 3, 2017

The purpose of this Sunday's meeting is to elect officers for the upcoming term. The nominating committee has worked hard to find candidates who are gifted and called to this service.

At the time of the deadline for the Lamplighter, the nominating committee was still working to secure nominations for one more deacon and one elder to serve on Education. Thank you to the members of this committee for their hard work: Bret Moore, Debbie Brilling, Jeff Nelson, Molly Darnell, and Paul Burns.

The nominees for the position of elder are: Henry Tribble, LeighAnn Millican, Mindy McCarthy, Margaret Ellingson, Joshua Price, and Nathan Phillips.

The nominees for the position of deacon are: Debby Brooke, Jacob Ayuk, and Faratiana Ranaivoarisoa.

Please [click here](#) to see a short biography of each candidate.

## Little Light of Mine

Come celebrate Christmas with "Little Light of Mine" as they present *The Christmas Story* on Sunday December

preparing for the celebration of our Lord's birth with carols for choirs, instruments, handbells and congregation. A Christmas Cookie Celebration reception will follow the service in Heffner Hall. Bring your friends and neighbors and share the good news of Christ's coming.

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## Breakfast with Santa

8:30-10 a.m. Saturday, December 9th in Heffner Hall. \$5 per child and adult. Includes breakfast from Chick-fil-A. Registration forms are available [here](#). Please bring forms and payment to the school office in the Education building. You must register and pay by Wednesday, December 6th.

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## An Invitation from The 39ers

The 39ers is a group of folks who like to meet, eat and have fellowship together. On Monday, December 4th, we will meet at Bambinelli's at Noon, and would welcome any and all who would like to join us. (3202 Northlake Pkwy NE, Atlanta, GA 30345) We will carpool from the office side of the church, if that is more convenient. The carpool will leave at 11:45.

Please contact Charles Mills 678-654-6828 or Sarah Slusher 770-939-9546 with any questions.

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## Potpourri Sunday School Class

The Potpourri Sunday School Class will begin an Advent Study Dec 3 - 17, with the book, *The Redemption of Scrooge* by Rev. Matt Rawle. Learn how Jesus' teachings can be found in

17th at 2:30 pm in the Sanctuary at Briarlake Baptist Church. (3715 Lavista Rd 30033). Contact Linda Weaver with any questions.



Little Light of Mine would like to thank the members of St. Andrews for their continuing support as our home as well as providing us with a place to rehearse.

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## Longest Night Worship Service



Through visual art, poetry, prayer, song, and candle-lighting, as we approach the longest night of the year, we will pause from the hustle and bustle of the season to honor those who struggle and to witness to the light that has come, and is coming into the world. This service will create a safe and sacred space for those who are struggling to feel the joy and light of the holiday season due to loss of any kind. Please join us on Wednesday, December 13 at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

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## Toy Collection for NETWorks

Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. There is no prepared reading required to attend or participate in discussion.

For more information see the [Sunday School web page](#).

Questions: Contact [Mike Bearden](#) 404-660-8234

## Presbyterian Women

Please join the PW in the Meeting Room at 10 a.m. on December 12th for Bible Study, fellowship and refreshments. They are currently studying the book of Hebrews. Contact Jackie Harper with questions or for more information.

770-934-3463

## 2018 Mission Trip

Sunday December 10th at 7:30 p.m. in the Youth Lounge- Please join us for a meeting to discuss our inter-generational mission trip. We will vote on possible options, determine duration and sign-up participants.

Here are the options:

James Island, SC Flood Recovery with PDA - Staying at Harbor View Presbyterian Church; Work: Home repair, landscaping, painting.

Summerton, SC Flood Recovery with PDA - Staying at Summerton Presbyterian Church; Work: Cleaning out homes, sheet rocking, no major building.

Flint River, GA Flood Recovery with PDA - Staying at the Flint River Presbytery, Albany, GA, member homes, or motels; Work: Final stage of recovery, mostly landscaping.



# Good Neighbor Christmas Shop

NETworks Cooperative Ministry will hold their annual Good Neighbor Christmas Gift Shop to provide an affordable, dignified way for low-income families to provide Christmas gifts for their families. The gift shop sells new, unwrapped donated toys at extremely affordable prices. If you wish to donate toys, boxes will be available in the Narthex through December 3rd. A list of suggested toys can be found [here](#). For more information please call NETworks 770-939-6454.

## Community Mission Service Opportunity

The newest community mission for our SAPC congregation is providing dinner for up to 30 men on the 4th Sunday of each month at [Clifton Sanctuary Ministries](#). Clifton Sanctuary has been open 365 days a year, for more than 27 years, it has offered a place of rest, shelter, healing and support to the homeless men of Atlanta; it's the oldest shelter in Atlanta operating in a house of worship.



How you can get involved: Sign up a group, family or group of friends below as the "evening host team" to provide a meal for up to 30 men w/serving utensils, dessert, and drink

(plates, glasses, silverware, napkins, ice and containers for any leftovers you want to leave are available on site) when SAPC serves on the 4th Sunday of each month. Set up begins at 5:00 pm and meals are served at 6:00 pm. You are invited to eat and talk with the guests/residents during the meal. No clean-up is needed. It is done by the "guest/resident team" for the night.

[Click here](#) to sign up to serve. More details are available on the sign-up page. For questions contact: [Mike Bearden](#), SAPC Missions Ministry 404-660-8234

## Chrismen Making

Clinton, SC for Thornwell Home for Children - Staying at Safay Cottage, Thornwell (and motels, if necessary); Work: Landscaping, cleaning, afternoons at the pool with the Thornwell kids, and planned evening activities for them.

Costs for the trip will be determined as soon as a destination and a verified site reservation are made.

## New Nursery Workers

St. Andrews has hired new nursery workers for Sunday Mornings. Megan Steffes will be the primary and care-giver and came highly recommended by Margaret Williams.

We will also have a substitute nursery worker, Melissa Williams, a first year Oglethorpe student from Colorado.

We will have both come the next two weeks to give parents a chance to meet them. Thanks to Jill Jarvis and Patsy Cannon for all their hard work and time they put into this project.

## December Birthdays

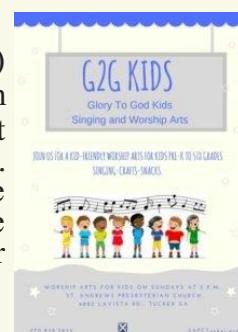
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Marsha Ashby, Curtis Morse
- 4<sup>th</sup> Jim King
- 5<sup>th</sup> Maureen Hill
- 6<sup>th</sup> Amelia Pattillo
- 8<sup>th</sup> David Barnhart
- 11<sup>th</sup> Edward Forrester
- 12<sup>th</sup> Francine Elle,  
Marco Compton
- 13<sup>th</sup> Peggy Benedict
- 14<sup>th</sup> Anne Howland
- 15<sup>th</sup> Jackson Powell
- 17<sup>th</sup> Teresa Maloney
- 21<sup>st</sup> Peter Shenkman
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Jane Thomas
- 24<sup>th</sup> Mary Jento ft
- 27<sup>th</sup> Elinor Bryan,

It's Chrismon making time! Please join us Monday, December 4th at 6:30 pm in the church library. It is a St. Andrews tradition that every family who attends our Christmas Eve services is given an ornament to take home. Join us as we make ornaments. For a short video about the history of the Chrismon tree, [click here](#).



## G2G Kids Choir Continues

St. Andrews' Glory to God (G2G) Kids choir will resume rehearsals on Sunday, December 3rd. They will meet in the choir room from 5:00-5:30 pm. All kids, Pre-K thru 5th Grade, are welcome. Come make a joyful noise with us! [Contact David Lukens](#) for more information or to sign-up to help.



## Christmas Tree Sale

Bariture Komi, Mark Talgo,  
Victoria Worrell  
28<sup>th</sup> Mary McCowen  
30<sup>th</sup> Russell Darnell

## December Anniversaries

14<sup>th</sup> Paula & Lewis Gleason  
21<sup>st</sup> Walter & Gwen McDuffie  
27<sup>th</sup> Jane & Clyde Wentz  
29<sup>th</sup> Curtis & Heather Morse  
31<sup>st</sup> Barbara & Orin Mattheis



## Donate to St. Andrews just by 'Smiling'

If you are like most people, you do some shopping on Amazon. Now, when you shop at Amazon Smile, a portion of the purchase price will be donated to

St Andrews. [Smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) is the exact same thing as Amazon.com - you use the same Amazon account that you currently have and everything else stays the same. On your first visit to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) you will select a charitable organization that will receive donations from eligible purchases, before you begin shopping. Then, every eligible purchase you make at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) will result in a donation to St. Andrews. Giving is that easy!

## Upcoming Events

Please click here see our [calendar](#) for all our upcoming events.

## Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

For those who wish to support

## Youth News

### December 10 6-730 pm Christmas Party

Meal provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share! White elephant gift exchange- bring a gift valued at \$10 or less.

7:30 pm Mission Trip meeting.

### December 17 Lessons and Carols

Youth choir sings, no youth group

### December 20 Hawks Game!

### January 7 Youth Group and Choir Resumes

### February 11 Youth Sunday

### February 16-18 Ski Trip

[Click here to sign-up now](#)

**Sunday School Re:Form Traditions:** Come to the high school room during the Sunday school hour to learn about the reformed tradition. The session will start with a video, have an activity and discussion.

## Library News

A review of *The Turquoise Table* By Kristin Schell

Now that we have a turquoise picnic table sitting in our front yard at St. Andrews, some of you might wonder why it is there. This book explains the concept behind the

PDA's emergency response and recovery efforts, following Harvey, Irma, and Maria gifts can made online [click here](#).

If you prefer to mail a check, you may send it to:  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
PO Box 643700  
Pittsburgh, PA, 15264-3700

You may also call Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EST), at 1-800-872-3283 and donate by phone. For updates, please go to [pda.pcusa.org](http://pda.pcusa.org).

Or text "PDA" to 20222 to give \$10 to the General Relief account.

Please join us in praying for courage for those who are suffering; wisdom and diligence among agencies and individuals assessing damage and directing relief efforts; and for generosity to flow as powerfully as rivers and streams, as we respond to the deep human needs left in the wake of the recent storms.



Turquoise Table movement by its creator, Kristin Schell.

When Kristin moved to a new neighborhood in Austin, Texas, she longed to connect with her neighbors in a meaningful way, but did not know how. Then she thought back to the summer she spent in France. She remembered long, leisurely meals and great conversations; and, she craved that slower, authentic time to connect with people, that she experienced around the table in France. Thus, the idea of a picnic table in her front yard was born. She painted it turquoise, her favorite color. Then she sat out there to see what would happen. Kristin writes:

I struggle with the concept of 'being' versus 'doing'. My default mode is to 'do' - host fun parties, etc. Our society equates busyness with success. Slowing down to notice that a stranger who jogs by is suddenly missing seems like a colossal waste of time. In those insignificant moments sitting at the table, noticing and observing, I was learning about my neighborhood.

Soon the Turquoise Table idea caught on and has spread around the country. The adherents call themselves "Front Yard People." Check out this book for more information and come sit at our turquoise table any time.

by Klara Smith



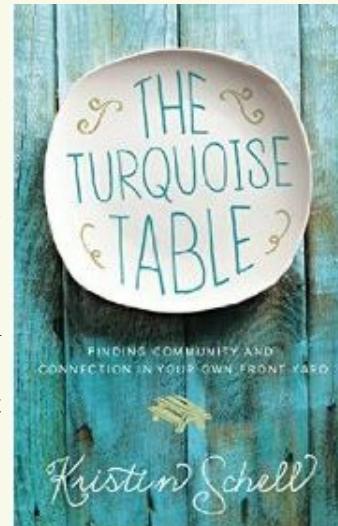
St. Andrews' new Turquoise Table

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## News from St. Andrews School

Season Greetings!

It's that time of year when we reflect on how good God has been to us. Indeed, we have been blessed beyond



measure this year at St. Andrews School. We consider ourselves blessed to be under the covering of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. I would personally, like to thank you for your concern and devotion toward the school and the children that we have the honor of caring for each day.

December will be a very exciting month at SAS. The anticipation of the Christmas season has all of us a bit giddy! We will kick off our holiday celebrations with Cookies and Carols on the 1st of December. The three-year-old students will sing carols in the sanctuary at 11:00 am, followed by cookies with their families. Our Toy Drive for the Salvation Army will be December 4th - 18th. Our Annual Breakfast with Santa will be in Heffner Hall December 9th at 8:30 am. Finally, this year's Christmas Program, featuring our Pre-K and Kindergarten students, will take place on December 4th at 11:00 am in the church sanctuary.

Thank you again for your support of the school. Wishing all of you a wonderful holiday season from St. Andrews Preschool.

Sincerely,

Ann McKinney  
Director St. Andrews School

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