



Ministry Spotlight - April Events

What a gift it was to gather with our church family during April. Together we observed Lent, Holy Week, Easter, joyful baptisms, creation care Sunday, and a walk in the park!





From the Pastor

45 months
37 credits
14 books in the literature review
2 readers (advisors)
100 pages
29,495 words (no telling how many got cut)
1 degree

In September 2019, I enrolled in school for the first time since 2002. I thought the learning curve might be steep. When I finished Union Presbyterian Seminary with my two master's degrees, things were already starting to change. In my last class before graduation, I had to create my very first PowerPoint presentation, and I submitted a paper to a professor via email for the first time. So, when I enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program at Columbia Theological Seminary, I knew I'd have some adjustments to make. Little did I know that would all accelerate when COVID-19 hit after my first semester, and everyone had to pivot to online learning.

When I first applied for admission, I knew I wanted to study worship and faith formation (Christian Education). The working title for my project midway through the program was "Liturgy as Faith Formation: Glorifying God with Our Hearts and Minds." My plans changed a little,

as expected, as I had to fine-tune the project details. Some of the ideas were not feasible in the time frame and with the uncertainty of the pandemic. (I hope to find other ways to try some of those ideas in the future.) What I did end up with was a study that made use of our pandemic-prompted “Lunch and Learn” program. A couple of months ago, when I had to finalize the title of my project, I settled on “Aiding and Abetting the Holy Spirit: Enriching the Impact of Worship for Faith Formation.”

My project studied the intersection of worship and faith formation, seeking to understand how the formative impact of worship can be increased. Recognizing that despite our best efforts and all our hopes, most pastors, church educators, and leaders see that even the most active and involved church members no longer regularly participate in Sunday School and mid-week educational programs in addition to worship. Many churchgoers consider monthly worship attendance “regular.” Pew research has shown this to be true. The reality is that a one-hour worship service cannot do the work of an entire Christian education program for a congregation, nor should it. But worship is the primary point of engagement for most churchgoers.

My research employed “Lunch and Learn” as a supplemental Bible study program. Using questionnaires and focus group interviews, this study found that the formative impact of worship increases when accompanied by weekly small group study of the biblical texts used in worship. The results suggest that a group study exploring the Scripture texts used in worship is one way to increase the formative impact of worship. The research also showed other benefits of the “Lunch and Learn” program that were not part of the study. As regular participants know, it’s so much more than Bible study.

I have joked that besides the seminary staff who were paid to read my dissertation, the only other person who is likely to end up reading it is my mom. My advisor thinks I should pull some pieces out to publish in journals. I hope to share more about my research with those in the community who are interested. But for now, I’m glad to set it all aside for a little while.

I want to share with you part of what I included on my dissertation's acknowledgments and dedication page.

This project would not have been possible without the help and support of many people.

I am grateful to St. Andrews Presbyterian Church in Tucker, Georgia, for allowing me to walk beside them as their pastor, for their openness and resilience in unprecedented times, for their interest in and support of this project, for their partnership in ministry, and for taking their faith seriously without taking themselves too seriously.

I am grateful to my “Lunch and Learn” crew whose participation made this project possible, who remind me that it's okay not to have the answers, teach me as we explore scripture together, and show me the value of Christian community.

This project is dedicated to all those committed to lifelong faith formation.

I will officially graduate at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Atlanta on Saturday, May 20th, at 10 am. I don’t know that the ceremony will be particularly exciting, but it will be live streamed on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/CTSeminary>.

I will try not to let my new status go to my head. You may refer to me formally as "Reverend Doctor," but I'm still most comfortable with "Camille."

Thanks for your support throughout this process.

Camille

Tucker Day Sign up Now!

St. Andrews will have a booth at Tucker Day, on Saturday, May 6th. [Click this link](#) to sign up for a shift to help. Let's offer our neighbors a cup of cold water and share with our community about our wonderful place of worship. (For those who sign up to do setup and tear down, Ashley will be in contact with specific details.) You're welcome to contact ashley@sapctucker.org with questions.

Visit to the Baps Mandir

On Tuesday, May 23rd anyone interested in touring the BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir in Lilburn, is invited to meet at the church at 10:00 am to go together for a 10:30 am guided tour. The tour minimum is more than 10 people so if less than 10 sign up we'll just go and not get a guided tour. [This YouTube video](#) about Hinduism may be helpful to those who are interested but not yet sure whether to attend.



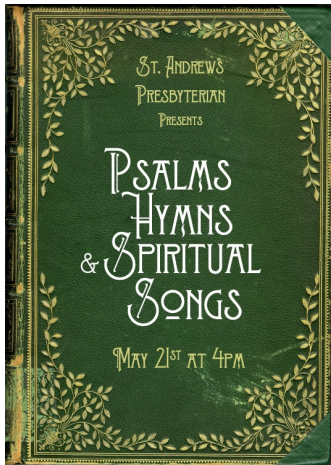
Here are the guidelines for this guided tour:

- There is no charge for group visit. However, each member of your group can help us serve the community by bringing a vegetarian canned food item (no meat, poultry, or fish) during their visit. The items will be donated to the Care Closet - a confidential school-based food pantry (link - <http://carecloset.org>)*.
- On arrival, please ask for parking direction at the security booth. Please have all members meet in front of or inside the Gift & Book Shop near the grand steps of the Mandir. A volunteer guide will meet you five minutes prior to your scheduled tour time.
- The guided tour is about an hour long and includes a minimum of 30 minutes of walking/standing. Handicap access is available via a ramp and elevator. The structure is made of stone, so we request everyone to be extra careful and use handrails, when possible, to prevent injuries.
- All visitors must remove their shoes in the shoes drop off area before entering the Mandir. It is recommended that everyone wears socks as the marble inside the Mandir can be cold.
- Shorts, short-skirts, and sleeveless tops are not allowed.
- Photography and videography are not allowed from the podium level and inside the Mandir.
- Management reserves the right to cancel or alter your visit in the event of inclement weather or any unforeseen circumstances, or closure of the premises in full or part, without any prior notice. Every effort will be made to avoid any inconveniences. Any changes effecting your tour will be communicated to you.

We have a couple of options for lunch after the tour. The Shayona Café is on the property of the temple. It is vegetarian cuisine with traditional Indian dishes and other options like pizza, vegetarian burgers, and quesadillas. Another possibility would be to go a restaurant close by, like Los Hermanos in their new building on the

corner of Lawrenceville Highway and Killian Hill in Lilburn.

Please RSVP to Pat Baker by May 17th. Pat can be reached by phone, 678-438-3673, or email pat@sapctucker.org. Please include your preference for where you'd like to eat lunch.



Psalms, Hymns, & Spiritual Songs

Join us on May 21st, when St. Andrews Chancel Choir will perform a special concert of *Psalms, Hymns, & Spiritual Songs* starting at 4pm. Mark your calendars to come back out for a fun afternoon of some of the most loved choral anthems from some of the best composers like John Rutter, Gilbert Martin, William Dawson, and many more!

Glasses Collection from the Caring for Creation Team By Deanna Morrow Hall

Bring any glasses and/or lenses
you no longer need
to the Narthex

When I purchased my most recent eyeglass prescription, and the sales associate handed me my old glasses, I asked her if there were some way to reuse them. She told me that local Lions Clubs collect them. At the Lions Club website, I found that they not only collect discarded eyeglasses, but they have vision screening programs around the world. I also learned that, while some local Lions Clubs offer collection points, Lions Clubs International has a partnership with the Walmart Corporation, in which participating Walmart Vision Centers accept deposits of eyeglasses. This triggered an idea for me to submit to SAPC's Caring for Creation team: to collect discarded eyeglasses from the congregation. The team approved the idea.



I have placed a large glass container in the Narthex. You may deposit your eyeglasses there, with or without frames. I will monitor the container, and take the eyeglasses to the Walmart Vision Center in Tucker as needed. The container will be available for three months (May-July) as a test to determine the volume of donations made. At that time, we will determine whether or not to continue it.

Here are some interesting facts from the Lions Clubs website:

- Helen Keller inspired Lions Club to champion the cause of visual impairment in 1925
- 253 million people are blind or have moderate to severe distance vision impairment (MSVI)
- 1.1 billion have near-vision impairment simply because they don't have a pair of glasses
- 75% of all blindness and MSVI is avoidable
- 89% of people with visual impairment live in developing countries

Treasurer's Report Jane Thomas, Treasurer

In March our income was \$48,282.00, and our expenses totaled \$44,523.16. Year to date,

SAPC Staff

Pastor
Rev. Camille LeBron Powell
(ext 106)

our income was \$115,306.07 and our expenses were \$102,588.37. So, we are in the black by \$12,717.70.

Currently we have a mortgage balance of \$94,887.28. We have \$39,488.98 in our mortgage fund, and a monthly payment of \$4,111. Thus, we have funds on hand to cover 9.5 months of payments.

A Dementia-Friendly Church

On May 7 after worship from 11:30 am to 12:30 pm, everyone is invited to learn more about dementia and how St. Andrews can become a dementia-friendly church. Pat Baker will be presenting materials from Dementia Friendly Georgia to give members a better understanding of the difference between dementia and Alzheimer's, normal aging vs. dementia, the 5 key messages about dementia and how to communicate with someone who is facing the challenges of having dementia. All ages are invited for this informative presentation.

Special Offerings in May

Caring Hands - May 14

On Mother's Day, we will take a special offering to benefit the Presbyterian Homes of Georgia Caring Hands Fund. Presbyterian Homes is a ministry devoted to God's seniors in our care. For 74 years, the Caring Hands Fund offers benevolent care for six Presbyterian Homes communities in Georgia with contributions directly supporting the care of residents who have outlived their financial resources. Our congregation joins Presbyterian churches statewide to annually support this ministry. Learn more about Presbyterian Homes of Georgia and their vital ministry [on their website](#).

If you would like to give to this offering, please put "Caring Hands" in the memo of your check. If giving online, please select Mission and put "Caring Hands" in the Notes.

Pentecost Offering - May 28

A foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. When you give to the Pentecost Offering, you are helping to provide opportunities for young people to grow and share their faith in Christ. 40% of this offering stays with our congregation to benefit youth ministries in the area.

If you would like to give to this offering, please put "Pentecost" in the memo of your check. If giving online, please select Mission and put "Pentecost" in the Notes.

camille@sapctucker.org

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[Visit our
website](#)

Giving

Online giving applies to your pledge just the same as a paper check. Secure online contributions can be made by clicking [this link](#), or checks can be mailed to: SAPC, 4882 Lavista Rd, Tucker, GA 30084

GIVE NOW
through the Presbyterian Mission Exchange

May Birthdays

- 1 Debbie Brilling, Samantha Brilling
- 2 Cheryl Anderson, Betsy Floyd
- 5 Charlie Chambers, Mary Cook
- 9 Louis Todd
- 15 Jackson Forrester
- 17 Pat Baker
- 18 Jonathan Compton

St. Andrews Pear Trees

By Mary Evans

In 2015 Mike Fillon, a Master Gardener specializing in fruit trees and bushes, approached St. Andrews about planting pear trees on the south-facing knoll near the Tucker Recreation Center. The Atlanta Local Food Initiative (ALFI) had given him and the Friends of Tucker Parks 25 fruit trees to be planted throughout Tucker. Mike and others hoped to add at least 1,000 fruit trees/bushes to the new City of Tucker to beautify the city, produce fruits and enhance community knowledge about fruit crops. Other gardens were being constructed at Kelley Cofer Park and the Tucker Recreation Center.

Five "fruiting" Asian pear tree varieties were planted on the knoll and became the St. Andrews Orchard: a Pineapple pear, a Moonglow pear, a Housi pear, an Orient pear and a Twentieth Century pear. Each variety incorporates distinctive flavors and uses.

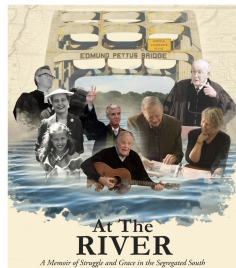
Care for the Orchard is minimal. Pear trees need regular deep watering, fertilization in April with All Purpose or Fruit fertilizer following instructions on package and occasional pruning to maximize tree health and fruit development.

The imagination and gifts of early city gardeners are now manifested each spring in beautiful blooms and summer bounty for the entire community. St. Andrews is happy to contribute to that effort.

Film Screening: At the River

Decatur Presbyterian Church will host a special film screening on Tuesday, May 16 at 6:30pm - *At the River: Struggle and Grace in the Segregated South*.

Filmmaker Carolyn Crowder, raised in Montgomery, Alabama, during the Civil Rights era, traveled throughout the Southeast interviewing ministers, including Rev. Dr. Phil Noble, now in their 80's and 90's, about their experiences and what it took to go against the racist currents during those hard days within their local communities and congregations, and discovered why they dared to do so. The film screening will be followed by a Q&A time with several featured ministers.



Presbyterian Women

The PW will meet at 10:00 am on May 16th in the meeting room and on Zoom. All of the

21 Mike Bearden
22 Kjersti Lukens
24 Ashley Elder
26 Phyllis Jennings,
Jonathan Westbrook
27 Griffin Millican
30 Leigh Ann Millican

May Anniversaries

3 Charlton & Jenny Allen
6 Jeff & Jocelyn Davis
18 Robbie & Betsy Floyd
22 Jonathan & Camille
Powell
26 Deb & Charlie
Chambers
30 Marjorie & Jim Holler,
Mike & Kim Rometo

Clifton Sanctuary Ministries

There are spots available for upcoming dates to bring food to Clifton. For more information or to sign up, [click here](#). This ministry is a very easy thing to do while maintaining your social distancing since meals are dropped off on Clifton's front porch after calling ahead to let them know when you are coming.

A group is gathering on the 4th Sunday of the month after worship to make lunches for Clifton. If you are interested in helping, [contact Phyllis Bearden](#).

Our congregation feeds the men at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries on the fourth Sunday of every month.



Tucker Farmer's Market

The Tucker Farmer's market is back on

women of St. Andrews are invited to attend.

Thursdays from 4 - 7 pm through the fall growing season.

Collection for NETWorks

The Presbyterian Women are continuing to collect personal hygiene items for NETWorks Cooperative Ministries. Needed items include adult diapers, poise pads, maxi pads, and tampons. Please bring items to the collection box in the Narthex, or to PW meetings.

Notes from the Session

By Marcia Noble

We want to update you on a new process initiated by the Session, how it is working now, and how it will continue to work throughout 2023. During the budget process for 2023, one of the difficult aspects was how to incorporate rental monies that the Church receives from movie companies. Most often, the revenue comes from the fees paid to rent our parking lots to park trucks and equipment for filming at the recreation center. Since there is no way to know exactly what this income will be, or when it will occur, the budget for this income was set based on a conservative figure of \$30,000 per year, and that amount is incorporated in the expenses of the budget. For anything over and above that \$30,000, it was agreed that the Session would conduct a quarterly review of rental funds from that quarter and determine how they should be used.

At our April session meeting, the Session undertook our first quarterly review of rental funds to determine whether to save for future projects or to fund some projects at this time. The question before the session was: What would be the best use of these funds to invest in Christ's mission in and through St. Andrews right now?

- J. Thomas, Treasurer, reported that we have received \$16,300 from building use income in the first quarter of 2023. The session-approved 2023 budget expected and allocated \$7,500 in building use income in the first quarter. The unallocated funds available are \$8,800.00.
- The Ministries then identified projects that they wished to fund at this time, with rationale and associated costs.
- After a time of questions and discussion, the Session approved the following use of funds:
 - \$3,000.00 - to fund hired nursery workers that will work in the newly established nursery
 - \$1,000.00 - to equip the library with a computer and microphone to make it usable as a Zoom-enabled Sunday School classroom/small conference room
 - \$2,300.00 - to address technical sound upgrades needed in the Sanctuary.
 - \$2,000.00 - to be added to the budget for the annual Back-to-School carnival

The total of funds spent on these four projects is \$8,300.00, leaving \$500.00 to be added to the next quarter's rental funds.

Quarterly reviews will continue throughout 2023, and we are excited to be able to make these types of timely decisions for best use of the resources of SAPC. In the meantime, we are celebrating the new opportunities being met by the decisions made at this time.

PDA: Disaster Relief and More

Did you know that Presbyterian Disaster Assistance responds to more than just To Donate:

tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, fires and floods? They also aid refugees and asylum seekers, as well as respond to incidents of public violence, like mass shootings.

When you are not sure what to do besides offering thoughts and prayers, supporting PDA is a way to do more. [Click here](#) to contribute directly to their efforts. To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to:

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
P.O. Box 643700
Pittsburgh, PA 15264-3700

The code to designate gifts to the humanitarian response in Ukraine is DR000165.

The code to donate to hurricane relief, including Hurricane Ian is DR000194

Call 800-872-3283

[Click here](#) to donate online

Text 'PDA' to 20222 to donate \$10

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

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