



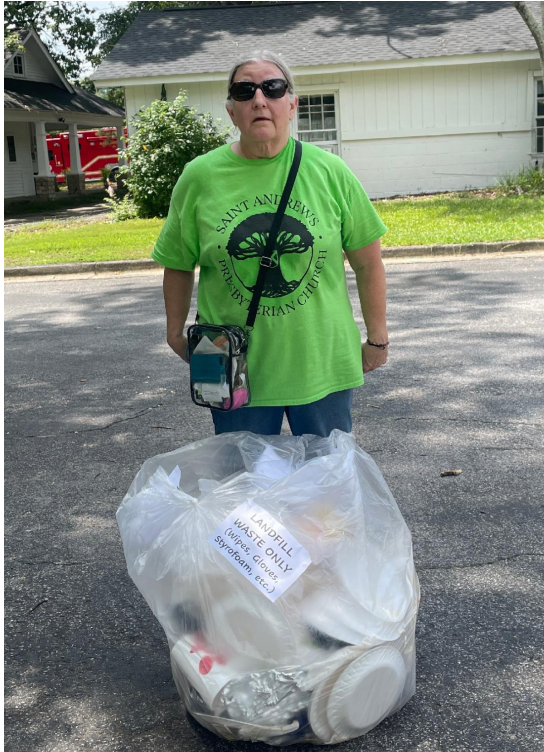
Ministry Spotlight: Back-to-School Carnival

The Back-to-School Carnival on August 12th was a huge success. Initial estimates indicate we hosted between 350-400 people! In addition to all the fun activities our guests enjoyed, we also shared information about how to visit, partner with, and support St. Andrews. Thank you to all who helped bring this event to life!

Can you believe we had so many people at our carnival in August and only produced ONE bag of trash headed to the landfill? (Pictured below.)

Special thanks go out to Margaret Ellingson and the Caring for Creation team for helping us find ways to reduce the amount of non-compostable and non-recyclable trash we produce at the event. It wouldn't have been possible without separate waste receptacles and Margaret sorting and then taking it all to Emory University where they have a more robust waste disposal program than Dekalb County offers. We've got ideas for how to improve and reduce our landfill waste even more next year! If you are curious about changes you can make to be better stewards of the earth or want to get involved in Caring for Creation, you can [contact Margaret](#).





As a pastor, I never thought I'd write something for a church newsletter about Barbie! But here I am.

If you haven't seen the movie, I highly recommend Greta Gerwig's reimagining of the iconic toy world. In the trailer, they say, "If you love Barbie, this is the movie for you. If you hate Barbie, this is the movie for you." I think they're spot on with that, and I applaud Gerwig for her work.^[1] I will withhold my full review and rambling thoughts about the movie, but I do want to share some words from two of the original songs in the movie. The soundtrack has accompanied me since I saw the movie at the end of July. As I've been working on our "Big Feelings" sermon series, I've contemplated quoting the lyrics in worship but thought this might be a better place.



[Movie Poster with Margot Robbie as "Stereotypical Barbie" & Ryan Gosling as "Ken"; Kate McKinnon as "Weird Barbie"; America Ferrera as mom "Gloria" & Ariana Greenblatt as daughter "Sasha"; Camille & her brother with her Barbie Townhouse circa 1980]

The dolls, played by Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, end up on a journey of self-discovery brought on by an existential crisis of sorts. Ken contemplates his role. He's always on the sidelines, while Barbie is the center of attention. In the song, *I'm Just Ken* (written by Mark Ronson, Andrew Wyatt, Caroline Ailin, & Dua Lipa), Ken begins with a solo, reflective ballad.^[2] Before the song transitions to an epic dance battle, he sings, "Doesn't seem to matter what I do; I'm always number two. No one knows how hard I tried. I have feelings that I can't explain, Drivin' me insane." After a life of just beach and Barbie, he is finally figuring out what he's feeling and what to do with his feelings. Sure, he's just a plastic doll, but he represents a very real truth in our world, particularly for men. He has always played a role, and now he doesn't know what to do with his emotions. He wonders, "Am I not hot when I'm in my feelings?" Maybe the real question is, "Will I be loved and accepted if I am honest about my feelings?" That is a question for us all.

The other song that speaks to our quest to honor and understand our

emotions as gifts from God is *What Was I Made For* by Billie Eilish. [3] As Barbie struggles with who she will be now that she has had an awakening, we hear Eilish singing in the background:

I used to float, now I just fall down
I used to know but I'm not sure now
What I was made for
What was I made for?

'Cause I, I don't know how to feel
But I wanna try.
I don't know how to feel.
But someday, I might
Someday, I might.

What were we made for?
We were made *out of* and *for* love.

We were made, fearfully and wonderfully, body, mind, and feelings. We are not our jobs, no matter how important they might be. No matter how impressive they might be, we are not our houses, vacations, or wardrobes. We are not our relationships. We were each made for particular purposes, but we are all called to be the person God created us to be, and we are all called to treat others as beloved children of God.

Sometimes, we don't know how to feel, but we should remember that God gave us our emotions as gifts. Our feelings are not something to overcome. *I don't know how to feel, but I wanna try.* It's okay not to know how to feel. Honoring and attending to our feelings, listening to the stories they tell, and figuring out how we feel is part of being a beloved child of God.

While Eilish's haunting tune and lyrics were written for a movie about a plastic fashion doll, they were written by a thoughtful and gifted human being listening to the stories her feelings tell her. I often quote my college chaplain's line: God gave us brains and expects us to use them. I'll add: God gave us feelings and expects us to listen to them. That's how God made us.

Honestly, I can't remember the last movie soundtrack that I enjoyed this much. I am happy to sing either Brandi Carlile's new version on the soundtrack or The Indigo Girls' original "Closer to Fine" at full volume in the car. Now Matchbox 20's "Push" even makes me smile. It's more than just a movie about a problematic toy.

-Camille

[1] *The New Yorker* has a great article about the movie, including the fact that "Gerwig presented [film] executives with a poem in the style of the Apostles' Creed" when pitching her idea for the film. <https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2023/07/10/after-barbie-mattel-is-raiding-its-entire-toybox>

[2] Video of "I'm Just Ken" <https://youtu.be/ru1LC9IW20Q>

[3] Video of "What Was I Made For?" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW8VLC9nnTo>



SEPTEMBER 10
JOIN US!
Breakfast, 9 am

RALLY DAY

Meet your teachers. Learn about Sunday School for Children and Adults.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church sapctucker.org

Rally Day and Fall Sunday School Offerings

St. Andrews will kick off our new year of Faith Formation on Sunday, September 10th at 9:00 a.m. with Rally Day in the Youth Room.

Fall programming will include Sunday morning classes for all ages: nursery for preschoolers, children's classes, Youth, and two adult options: the Fidelis class, and Sunday Morning Together will continue as a permanent adult class.

Rally Day begins with a light breakfast of coffee, juice and pastries. Following an introduction of our teachers, the children and youth will head off to class, while the adults hear an in-depth presentation of the class offerings for the fall. Please join us!

Fall BBQ

by Nancy Davenport

Oh good! the Fall BBQ is coming up on September 24th after church.

Dear good cooks of St. Andrews, please bring what you did last year because it was so delicious. Remember the slaw, baked beans, and banana pudding! If you're new, we also welcome your dishes. Everyone should [sign up here](#) to list your contribution, or to help in other ways.

Don't forget to invite old and new members, visitors, neighbors, and



ST. ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Annual BBQ

SEPTEMBER, 24
IN-PERSON,
AFTER WORSHIP

INDOOR AND OUTDOOR DINING OPTIONS

friends. And we want to welcome Cristo para Todas las Naciones, our ministry partner, too. Come to the Fall BBQ for an afternoon of food, fellowship and special remembrances, and let's have a homecoming!

Treasurer's Report

Jane Thomas, Treasurer

In July, our income was \$47,315.00 and our expenses totaled \$26,157.78. Year to date, our income was \$280,588.71 and our expenses were \$230,760.47. So, we are in the black by \$49,828.24.

Currently we have a mortgage balance of \$79,457.79. We have \$33,644.98 in our mortgage fund, and a monthly payment of \$4,111. Thus, we have funds on hand to cover 8 months of payments.



Presbyterian Women

St. Andrews has an active group of Presbyterian Women that meets at 10:00 am on the Third Tuesday of the month in the Meeting Room and on Zoom. They are getting ready for their first meeting this fall on September 19th.

Contact Mary O'Brien if you would like to order the study book, *Sacred Encounters*. Contact Judy Cook for more information about the Presbyterian Women.

The PW will continue to collect adult diapers, poise pads, maxi pads, and tampons at meetings and in the Narthex for NETWORKS Cooperative Ministries.

SAPC Staff

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Camille LeBron Powell
(ext 106)

camille@sapctucker.org

Coordinator of Congregational Vitality

LaVerne Byas-Smith (ext 109)

laverne@sapctucker.org

Director of Music

David Lukens (ext 118)

dlukens@sapctucker.org

Associate Director of Music/Organist

Edward Weaver (ext 118)

ejweaver@bellsouth.net

Director of Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries

Pat Baker (ext 111)

pat@sapctucker.org

Director of St. Andrews School

Lonnette Bruce (ext 120)

sasdirector@sapctucker.org

Office Manager

Gretchen Perkins (ext 102)

office@sapctucker.org

Financial Administrator

Helen Hoang (ext 104)

finance@sapctucker.org

Visit our
website

Announcing EN-CORE

St. Andrews' En-couragement-CORE

A new ministry of SAPC, "En-CORE," will deploy church volunteers to service projects at St. Andrews School (SAS). Through the service of En-CORE volunteers, done in the love and Spirit of Christ, we hope to build relationships with the children, staff, and families of SAS.



Our church population overflows with time, talent, and years of life experience which could benefit the school's young children and families. On the other hand, engagement with young children and young families can only add purpose and youthful energy to En-CORE's senior volunteers. It's a "win-win" partnership. En-CORE volunteers will serve the children of SAS in a variety of ways such as Reading during story hour, providing tutoring for after school students, and holding and rocking fussy babies. SAS Director, Lonette Bruce envisions En-CORE volunteers eventually providing extra-curricular instruction in activities such as gardening and cooking, or helping with seasonal playground maintenance, for example. The goal is to match the volunteers' unique abilities with the needs of the students and the school.

Through the ministry of En-CORE, SAPC aims to forge deeper relationship with the SAS community and families, fulfilling our mission "to love God by being good neighbors," our closest neighbors being right on our campus at SAS.

If you'd like to join St. Andrews' En-couragement CORE, and share the love of Christ through service to our neighbors at St. Andrews School, please email LaVerne Byas-Smith, Coordinator of Congregational Vitality at laverne@sapctucker.org, or leave a message at 770-938-2833 ext. 109.

Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries

By Pat Baker

LOOKING AHEAD

Mark your calendars now for the next day trip. On November 7th be going to the Historic Oakland Cemetery to take a guided tour (either walking or in golf carts). Oakland Cemetery is one of the largest cemetery green spaces in Atlanta, Georgia. It was founded as Atlanta Cemetery in 1850 on six acres of land southeast of the city. It was renamed in 1872 to reflect the large number of oak and magnolia trees growing in the area. Among the famous buried there are writer Margaret Mitchell, Mayor Maynard Jackson, golf legend Bobbie Jones and many more. Recorded indicate that more than 70,000 souls rest there.

The following meditation was written by Missy Buchanan from her book *Talking with God in Old Age*.

Surprise Me Today

I like surprises that make me smile inside--

out-of-the-blue moments that give a boost to dry routine.

Like a sudden burst of warm sunshine on a blustery afternoon,

an unexpected hug from a giggling toddler,

or an old friend standing at my door with a loaf of warm bread and two plates.

Simple Blessings that lift me up.

Things that remind me it's good to be alive.

You have scattered surprises throughout my days, God.

I need only to open my eyes and ears.

Then I will notice the tangerine sun as it melts into the horizon.

I will hear the sweet song of the caregiver who hums while she makes the bed.

Help me discover more surprises today, and teach me to accept them with a grateful heart.

Psalm 66:5 (NLT)

Come and see what our God has done, what awesome miracles he performs for people!

What a Haul! Eyeglasses Collection from the Caring for Creation Team By Deanna Morrow Hall



In the May issue of *The Lamplighter*, the Caring for Creation Team announced that we would collect all kinds of eyeglasses for

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

September Birthdays

- 1 Adrienne Morse, Evelyn Morse
- 3 Edward Forrester
- 6 Nancy Davenport, Merle Westbrook
- 12 Katey Johnston
- 16 James Jordan
- 18 Micah Nelson
- 19 Linda Johnson

three months (May-July) as a test to determine the volume of donations made. Then Deanna would transport the eyeglasses to the Walmart Vision Center in Tucker. Thanks go out to our Office Manager, Gretchen Perkins, for helping to empty the container each week to prepare for the next week's donations. So here are the results:

Units	Number
Plastic rims w/ case	5
Metal rims w/ case	15
Plastic rims w/o case	41
Metal rims w/o case	33
Sunglasses	18
Empty cases	7
Frames w/ lenses but missing a temple	3
Frames w/ temples but missing one or both lenses	4
Lenses w/o frames	3 pairs
Total	129

THANK YOU! The Caring for Creation Team will keep this collection in mind for future scheduling. If you wish, may deliver any unneeded glasses or frames to the Walmart Vision Center.

- 20 Paul Burns, Lynn Kozlosky
- 27 Scott Williams

September Anniversaries

- 8 Carole & Jim Barnhart
- 10 J.D. & Deanna McFarlan
- 19 Ed and Emma Forrester
- 28 Tambre & Ross Phillips
- 30 Nancy & John Reichmann

Upcoming Events

September

- 3 Hymn Sing
- 7 Day Trip to the Carter Center, 10:30 AM
- 10 Rally Day, 9 AM
- Coro Voci Concert 4 PM
- 24 Fall BBQ, after worship

October

- 1 World Communion Sunday
- 5 Blessing of the Animals, 5 pm
- 22 Pledge Dedication Sunday
- 29 Reformation Sunday

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



Coro Voci Concert

All are invited on Sunday, September 10th at 4:00 p.m. for a concert of choral music from Coro Voci. Coro Voci is a group of musicians from Atlanta, GA, directed by Ed Weaver, who meet to share their love of music.

Memorial Drive Ministries Friend-Raiser

Memorial Drive Ministries invites you to their Friend-Raiser event on Saturday, September 30th at 1:30 pm. The event includes the opportunity to tour the MDM campus, meet on-site partners, games, snacks and more. Please RSVP to Beverly [here](#).

NETWorks Trivia Night September 23

Compete for prizes, have some fun, and show off your

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](#).

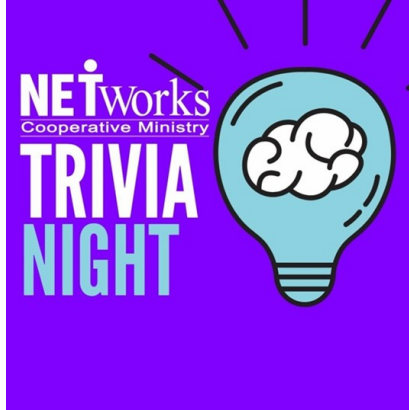
Our congregation feeds the men at Clifton Sanctuary Ministries on the fourth Sunday of every month.



Fall Flowers

[Click this link](#) to sign up to bring flowers for worship September-November. The flowers can be from your yard or from the store. If you would like to donate them in memory or in honor of a loved one, please enter that information when you sign up online.

smarts! Bring your friends and your brain power for an unforgettable night of trivia benefitting NETWorks Cooperative Ministry- 10 Rounds of



Trivia, Games, Prizes, & More! Doors open at 6:00 pm. Trivia begins at 7pm. Prizes awarded for Trivia Champions, Best Table Decoration & Trivia Spirit!

What you need to do:

- Arrange a team of up to 8 people.
- If you don't have a full table, we will gladly pair you with others who are short a full table.
- BYO beverages and food. There will be opportunities to win "party" beverages throughout the night.
- Space is limited, so [click here to register TODAY!](#)

The proceeds from this event will provide food and personal care items for neighbors facing urgent hardship and help families living in food insecurity become more stable. It is \$35 per person, or \$225 for a table of 8. Thank you for your support!

News from the Session

As you may already know, a new version of the *Book of Order* reflecting changes from the 225th General Assembly (2022) as approved by the presbyteries took effect on July 9, 2023. This new edition reflects a detailed review of new and updated policies and practices that need to be implemented in all churches. A copy is [available here](#) online.

Andy James, Clerk of the Atlanta Presbytery, is working to ensure that all churches in the Presbytery receive the support needed to update these changes. Since this is a complex process, he anticipates that this process will not be quick; his plan is that all changes will be completed by December, 2024. This will allow the time needed for collaboration in planning and provision of templates and instructions for action. Marcia Noble is participating in a series of Zoom meetings to move forward with the needed updates and/or changes.

PDA's Response in Maui

The Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with the Presbytery of the Pacific and other agencies in the area to assist after the wild fires earlier this month. [Click this link](#) for ways we can give, act and pray to assist those affected by this disaster. Please see below for more information about the PDA.



PDA: Disaster Relief and More

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

To Donate:

Call 800-872-3283

[Click here](#) to donate online

Text 'PDA' to 20222 to donate \$10

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

BIG FEELINGS



HONORING AND UNDERSTANDING
YOUR EMOTIONS AS GIFTS FROM GOD

August 20 - September 24

August 20

Honoring and Understanding Your Emotions as Gifts from God
Psalm 139:7-18 ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

August 27 - Born to Be Happy
Psalm 100 ~ John 5:1-9

September 3
Big Feelings Hymn Sing

September 10
The Thing Behind the Thing
Ezra 3:10-13 ~ Lamentations 1:1-5

September 17 - Profound Anger
Exodus 32:1-10 ~ John 2:13-22

September 24 - Be Not Afraid?
Psalm 118:1-9 ~ Matthew 26:36-46

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
770-938-2833
office@sapctucker.org
sapctucker.org

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St. Andrews Presbyterian Church | 4882 Lavista Rd , Tucker, GA 30084

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