



### Ministry Spotlight: New Roof

In April, our Office and Education buildings received a new roof. Many thanks go out to our Management Ministry for coordinating with our insurance company, taking bids, and ensuring that the job was done right.



### From the Pastor:

When was the last time you used a glue stick?

If you can't remember, it's probably been too long. I love a good craft project and probably use glue sticks and other craft supplies more frequently than your average middle-aged solo pastor.

If you were to ask the members of St. Andrews's session the same question, their answers, at the time of this writing, would be sometime within the last week.

What were we doing, you ask?

Would you be surprised that we used glue sticks in a session meeting?

Perhaps. To be fair, that's not part of our typical session business.

As you know, we have been participating in the Vital Congregations Initiative. In December, you all filled out congregational surveys about the vitality of our community of faith. In March and April, the session has been working through and discussing the results of those surveys. After a few more steps in the process, the session will set a few short-term goals for congregational revitalization. But we're not there yet. We're not ready for an action plan yet.

LaVerne led the session through the survey results review process and had the great idea to conclude that time by creating vision boards. We took time to pray and envision the kind of future God has in store for St. Andrews. We were each given a square piece of foam core board and had time to look through magazines and old photos. We cut out pictures and words that captured what we had in mind. Some folks looked for particular images and ideas, and others didn't know what they wanted until they saw it. We had scissors that cut fancy edges, colorful washi tape, stickers, markers, and lots of glue sticks.

At our regular session meeting on April 21<sup>st</sup>, we shared our vision boards with the group. It was beautiful to see what each person hoped for our congregation. Some boards were covered entirely, without a sliver of the white foam board showing through. Some were primarily words. Some had faces of children or older adults dancing together. There were scripture passages and words of welcome. Some looked chaotic but, upon closer inspection, were thoughtfully organized into thematic clusters. Others were arranged decently and in order, with lots of blank space, and perhaps, even lined up with a ruler.



When LaVerne presented the idea of doing vision boards, I thought it was great, but I wouldn't have been surprised if someone had balked when she rolled out the cart with magazines, stickers, scissors, and glue sticks. But no one did! I wasn't sure what to expect from the boards. In the end, each board reflected the individual and their hopes for St. Andrews. They were beautiful—both aesthetically and symbolically.

We spent a few hours looking at the survey results. We looked at percentages and differentials. We dissected the wording of the questions and wondered what some of the comments meant. We categorized each of the seven marks as “challenges,” “potential strengths,” and “strengths.” And then we got playful. We got crafty. We looked at pictures. We passed around the supplies. We chatted and commented on what others were choosing. We played around with different layouts and got frustrated when we accidentally glued something to our fingertips instead of the board. I'd argue that there was more going on there than a craft project.

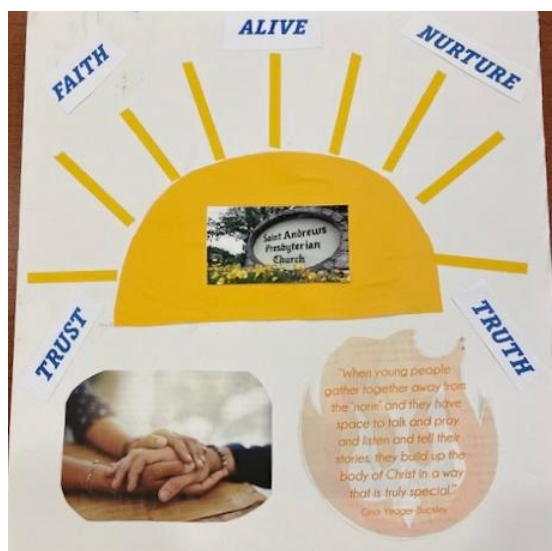
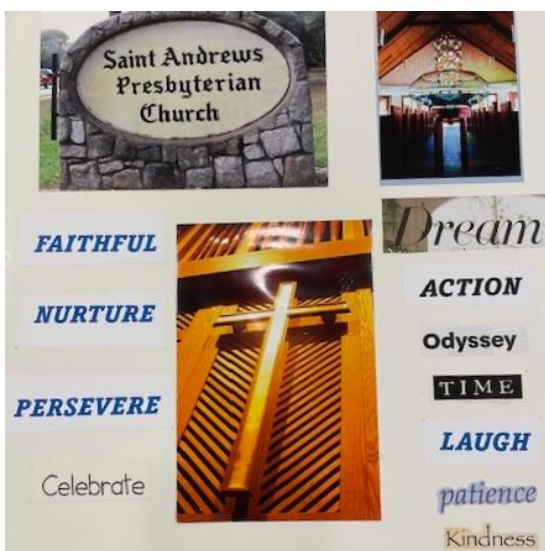
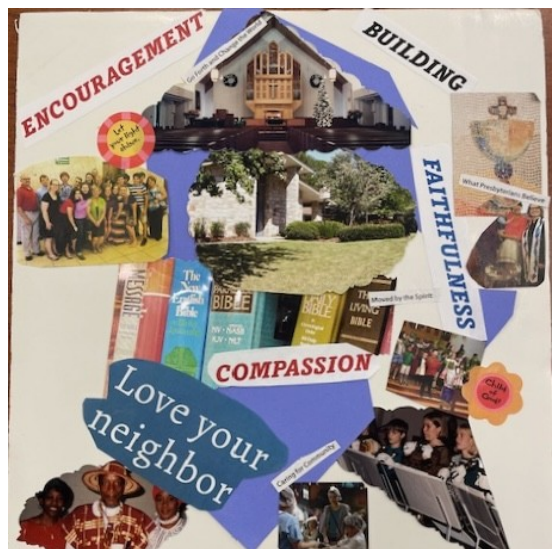
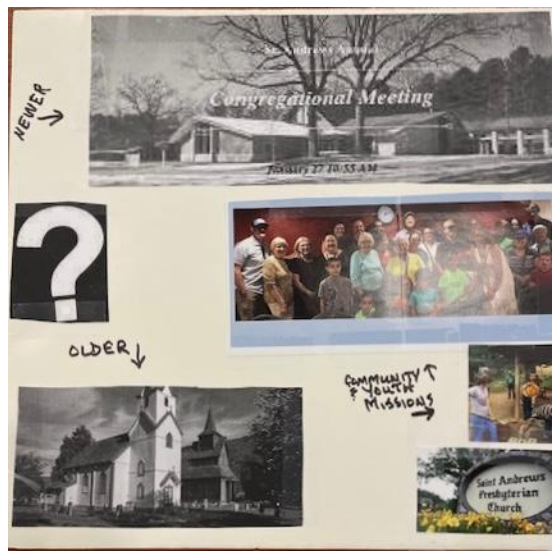
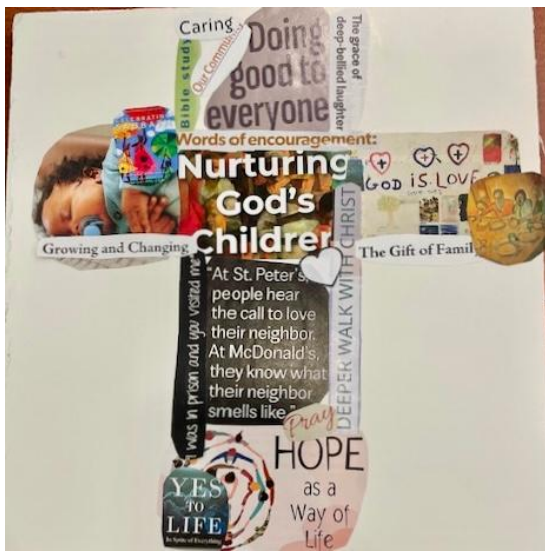
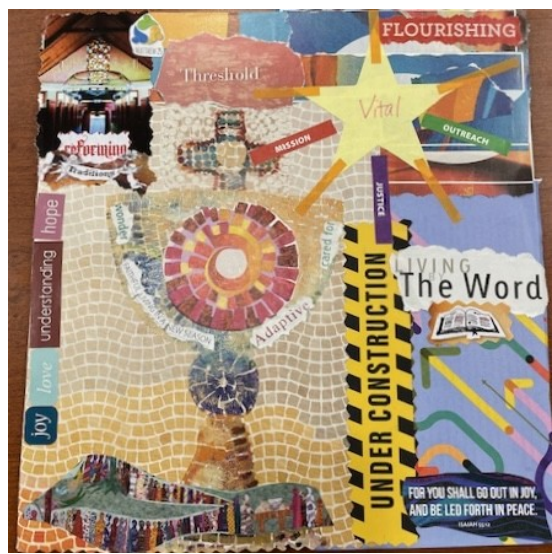
Not much research has been done about crafting, specifically, but neuroscientists are beginning to see the mental health benefits of arts and crafts. “There's promising evidence coming out to support what many crafters have known anecdotally for quite some time,” says Catherine Carey Levisay, a clinical neuropsychologist. “And that's that creating – whether it be through art, music, cooking, quilting, sewing, drawing, photography (or) cake decorating – is beneficial to us in a number of important ways.”<sup>[1]</sup> Working on a craft, whether highly skilled or just cutting and pasting, has similar effects to meditation. It can function like a natural anti-depressant. As crafters know, the reward goes beyond the act of creating because seeing the finished product offers more dopamine hits. Researchers even believe crafting can help protect the brain from damage caused by aging.

Engaging in a creative endeavor, like making a vision board, is good for the one who creates it. But I also think it's got to be good for the church. That creative act gets our creative juices flowing and our imaginations going about what we hear God calling us to do. It opens us up to see things differently, perhaps to get unstuck from how it's always been.

You all will get the opportunity to join in something a little creative on Pentecost, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Look for the invitation in this newsletter with our plans for a unique church service that Sunday- “Brunch Church.” In addition to sharing the results of the congregational survey and displaying Session members' vision boards, we'll celebrate paying off our mortgage. We hope and pray that you all will join us and that you can be open to the creative ways the Holy Spirit moves in and through this congregation.

-Camille

[1] <https://www.cnn.com/2014/03/25/health/brain-crafting-benefits/index.html>





### Brunch Church on Pentecost

It's central to being church – sharing a meal – and not only at the Lord's table. Food and fellowship have always been integral to our building community and deepening relationships in the church. So why not occasionally incorporate these into worship? That's part of the rationale behind "Brunch Church" – what we've planned for our worship service on Pentecost, May 19th.

Having Brunch Church *on* Pentecost seems particularly appropriate since Pentecost is the day we celebrate the birth of the Church. Originally Pentecost was an ancient Jewish feast celebrating the early (spring) harvest. (see Deuteronomy 16:9-10) After Jesus' ascension, as his 120 followers were gathered for the Pentecost observance, they received in spectacular fashion the fulfillment of Jesus' promise (John 14:26) of a Helper, the Holy Spirit. Hear Luke's account of this seminal event:

"And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability." (Acts 2:2-4)

This amazing display of God's power drew a diverse crowd composed "from every people under heaven," and astounded because they each heard the disciples' testimonies in their own unique tongue. The Holy Spirit added 3,000 new followers to their group that day. This sudden expansion and their miraculous endowment with God's power are considered by many the birth of the Christian church.

A birthday observance of sorts then, is fitting for St. Andrews this Pentecost, and for several other reasons as well. We're acknowledging

a season of *rebirth* at St. Andrews, as we enter, give thanks for, and relish our new debt-free era, having remitted our final mortgage payment in March. During our Brunch Church service we will symbolically “burn the mortgage.” We’ll also collectively review the results of our Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI) Congregational Survey, acknowledging our areas of vitality and exploring potential areas for growth as we listen for God’s new calling on us for the future. Brunch Church will be worship -- around tables in Heffner Hall, over a meal, and in fellowship with one another and with the Spirit of God. We will sing songs, pray, recite litanies, hear the Word proclaimed, and glorify God, all the elements of a worship service, even as we eat.

Please help us with Brunch Church, Sunday May 19th. Brunch starts at 9:45 am. Worship begins at the regular time, 10:00 am. The church will provide coffee, beverages, and donuts. We’re asking members to contribute breakfast casseroles, fruit and cheese platters, and other brunch items. Bring them to Heffner Hall by 9:30. And we’ll need many hands for set up, serving and clean up. Please [sign up here](#). Contact [Jeni Allen](#) or [LaVerne Byas-Smith](#) for more information.

---

## Treasurer's Report

### Jane Thomas, Treasurer

In March our income was \$55,275.25, and our expenses totaled \$37,049.10. Year to date, our income is \$110,006.75 and expenses are \$114,176.86. So, we are in the red by \$4,170.11.

---

## Collection Project

The Presbyterian Women are continuing to collect adult diapers, poise pads, maxi pads, and tampons at meetings and in the Narthex which will go to NETWorks. All are invited to participate.

---

## 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 gathers on the 4th Sunday each 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.*

---

## SAPC Staff

### Pastor

Rev. Dr. Camille LeBron Powell  
(ext 106)  
[camille@sapctucker.org](mailto:camille@sapctucker.org)

### Coordinator of Congregational Vitality

LaVerne Byas-Smith (ext 109)  
[laverne@sapctucker.org](mailto:laverne@sapctucker.org)

### Director of Music

David Lukens (ext 118)  
[dlukens@sapctucker.org](mailto:dlukens@sapctucker.org)

### Associate Director of Music/Organist

Edward Weaver (ext 118)  
[ejweaver@bellsouth.net](mailto:ejweaver@bellsouth.net)

### Director of Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries

Pat Baker (ext 111)  
[pat@sapctucker.org](mailto:pat@sapctucker.org)

### Director of St. Andrews School

Lonnette Bruce (ext 120)  
[sasdirector@sapctucker.org](mailto:sasdirector@sapctucker.org)

### Office Manager

Gretchen Perkins (ext 102)  
[office@sapctucker.org](mailto:office@sapctucker.org)

### Financial Administrator

Helen Hoang (ext 104)  
[finance@sapctucker.org](mailto:finance@sapctucker.org)

Visit our  
website

---

## Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries

### by Pat Baker

Every day I hear about someone who has been scammed or almost

scammed. In this month's AARP Bulletin about "How to Keep your Money Safe" I found these great tips.

## AN UPDATED TO-DO LIST TO MAKE IT MUCH HARDER FOR SCAMMERS TO REACH YOU

Do These Things Today. Be Safer Tomorrow.

- Open your iPhone's contact list and add your family, friends, doctors and other important numbers. Then go into your phone settings and turn on the setting for "silence unknown callers." This will send any caller who isn't in your contacts list directly to voicemail.
- Every few months, revise the passwords on your financial accounts. Your best bet is to use a passphrase: llovely17dogz! is much stronger than Scruffy23. Keep track of passwords in a highly secure password manager or by writing them down and storing them safely.
- Make sure you are signed out of any financial apps on your phone—credit cards, financial institutions and peer to-peer apps such as Venmo, CashApp or Zelle. Also make sure your account settings require security measures such as a PIN, fingerprint or facial recognition. This ensures that if your phone is stolen, the thief will not have access to your money.
- Check your social media settings to make sure you have your accounts set to private. This allows only people you choose to trust to view your pages and contact you.
- Routinely monitor your credit report. Some banks or credit cards offer this as a free service. You can also go to AnnualCreditReport.com or call 877-322-8228 to get free reports from the big three credit bureaus. Watch for unusual activity; if you see any, report it immediately to all three bureaus and appropriate financial institutions.
- Audit your wallet or purse. That means remove cards and information you don't need to carry (such as your Social Security or Medicare card). And make copies of anything you do need to carry (front and back) and store in a safe place at home.
- Add the AARP Fraud Watch Network Helpline phone number into your phone right now, so you'll have it if you need to call us to report a scam attempt or get more advice on how to stay safer from the people out there trying to steal your money and identity: 877- 908-3360.
- Be skeptical. Many criminals use friendliness, compassion and kindness as their persuasion method, rather than fear and intimidation. Likewise, scammers create a sense of urgency to get you to act out of emotion rather than logic. If you feel pressured or manipulated, walk away.

As reported in the *AARP Bulletin*, April 2024 By: Amy Nofziger, director of AARP's fraud victim support. Mark Fetterhoff, senior adviser on the victim support team.

---

## Help En-Core Cap Off a Year of Service at St. Andrews School

The last day of school for St. Andrews School is May 22nd. EnCore volunteers end a wonderful year of service at SAS having read weekly at Storytime, cheered the students on at their Halloween and St. Patrick's Day parades, met and greeted parents at a Fall reception, and served the families at their annual Thanksgiving dinner. We sent greeting cards for Christmas and coordinated the Valentine's Wish List which members of St. Andrews fulfilled. In March and April we piloted the Music Class led by two of our EnCore volunteers.



It's been a full, impactful year of service at St. Andrews School. Over the year we watched the children become better listeners at

Storytime. Students and teachers alike raved about the Music classes. All are enjoying the added resources gifted their classrooms. And perhaps most gratifying of all the children have come to know and trust us. Running into school families at church or other places in Tucker the children invariably say "that's the Storytime lady!" EnCore readers agree the sweet hugs at the end of Storytime draw us back again and again. It's been a very good year.

For our final EnCore activity this school year we're inviting Church members to join us in serving. SAS library is bulging with books – they need a larger room. We've been asked to help the School relocate its library. On Thursday, May 30th we'll be unpacking boxed up books and re-shelving them in the new space. Because no children will be present, any church member can volunteer to help. Please join us at the school at 10:00 am to assist school teachers and administrators unpack and reorganize their new library space. [Sign up for any amount of time here.](#) For more information [contact LaVerne, laverne@sapctucker.org.](mailto:laverne@sapctucker.org)

---

## An Email Scam/Spoof Warning from Pastor Camille

I am not sending emails out asking you to help me discretely take care of a pastoral situation. I haven't been hacked- they are just good at spoofing. They've figured out that pastors and churches are good targets because pastors sometimes ask for help, and church folks like to help. The emails often read like this:

*“Do you have a moment? I have a humble request that I need you to address discretely. I am going in for a meeting soon with limited communication. Kindly reply via email.”*

If you get an email like this that appears to be from me, asking for gift cards or help with a sensitive matter, definitely check with me before engaging it. When in doubt, text me or start a new email to me to check instead of replying to the suspicious email.

---

## Fidelis Sunday School Class

Everyone is welcome to join the Fidelis Sunday School Class, which meets at 9:00 am on Sunday mornings in the Library, and [on Zoom](#) (password fidelis).

The class uses *The Present Word* series of books. This month, the study theme is Standing in the Faith. [Contact Deanna Hall](#) for more information.

---

## Revelation Bible Study Class

### Returns May 12

The class on the Book of Revelation has finished looking at the background information with Bruce Gore. We will be starting to go through Revelation verse by verse. Please join us in the youth room beginning May 12th at 2:00 pm as we delve deeper into the material by Bruce Gore, facilitated by Arch Baker. Everyone is welcome, even if you have not attended

## 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



---

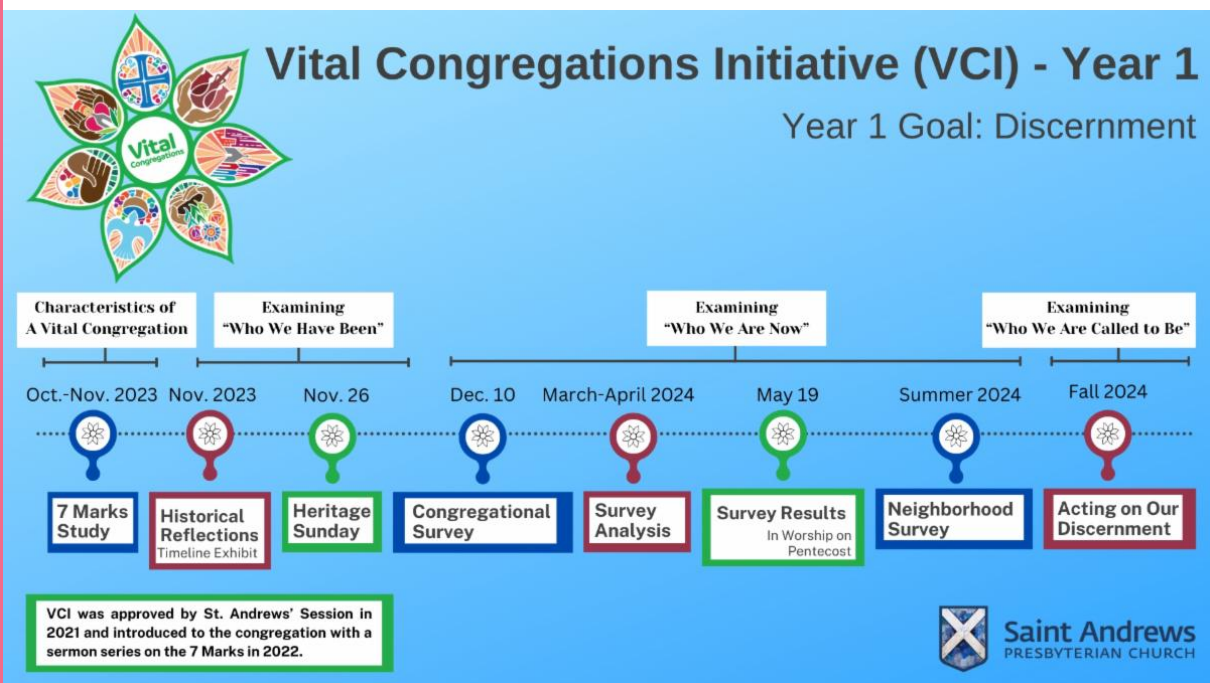
## May Birthdays

- 1 Debbie Brillling, Samantha Brillling
- 2 Cheryl Anderson, Betsy Floyd
- 9 Louis Todd
- 15 Jackson Forrester
- 17 Pat Baker
- 18 Jonathan Compton
- 21 Mike Bearden
- 22 Kjersti Lukens
- 26 Phyllis Jennings, Jonathan Westbrook
- 27 Griffin Millican
- 30 Leigh Ann Millican, Charlie Chambers

## 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

any of the other classes.



## 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 the following address:

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

To Donate:

Call 800-872-3283

[Click here](#) to donate online

Text 'PDA' to 20222 to donate \$10

**St. Andrews Presbyterian Church**  
770-938-2833  
[office@sapctucker.org](mailto:office@sapctucker.org)  
[sapctucker.org](http://sapctucker.org)

Connect with us



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

[Unsubscribe finance@sapctucker.org](mailto:unsubscribe@finance@sapctucker.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [office@sapctucker.ccsend.com](mailto:office@sapctucker.ccsend.com) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!