



Ministry Spotlight: Montreat

The April retreat to William Black Lodge was a huge success. We really did learn "everything we wanted to know about hymns- past and present" and then some. We enjoyed lots of interesting information about the origins of hymns and sang and sang and sang! This year, not only did we have current members of SAPC from far and near, but also other churches in the Atlanta area and even some fellow Presbyterians from out of state. Please mark your calendars for the 2025 trip- April 22-25, 2025- the week after Easter. The program is yet to be determined.



From the Pastor:

Kate Bowler is an associate professor of the history of Christianity at Duke Divinity School. She wrote the first and only history of the American prosperity gospel—the belief that God wants to give you health, wealth, and happiness—before being diagnosed with stage IV cancer at age 35. While in treatment for that cancer that she was not expected to survive, she wrote two *New York Times* bestselling

memoirs, *Everything Happens for a Reason (and Other Lies I've Loved)* and *No Cure for Being Human (and Other Truths I Need to Hear)*. There's something about that combination of scholarship, faith, real-world experience, humor, suffering, joy, and snark that I find so appealing and engaging. It also makes her prayers and blessings quite powerful and touching.

And so, not surprisingly, as I've been thinking about endings and beginnings, I thumbed through a few of her books, looking for words I couldn't find on my own. I shared the blessing I found with the session at our meeting on May 19th. We were all still so full, in our bellies and our hearts, from Pentecost Brunch Church. It was a worship service marking beginnings and endings. Pentecost is the birth of the church. In our Vital Congregations Initiative work, we have thanked God for what has been and sought guidance for what will be. As we burned the mortgage, we celebrated the end of mortgage payments and the faithful vision and work of the saints of St. Andrews in the past. But it also leaves us asking what is next now that we don't have the burden of debt—lots of endings and beginnings.

Because we are Easter people, we need not be afraid of death. And I know that may sound dangerously close to one of those “lies I've loved” that Bowler writes about, but it's true. One of the truths we need to hear amid endings and beginnings is that while we may not know what the future holds, we do know who holds the future. So, I end this with “A Blessing for Hellos and Goodbyes” from *Good Enough: 40ish Devotionals for a Life of Imperfection* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie.

Blessed are you on the brink of something new. A new life. A new career. A new commitment. A new relationship. A new decade. Blessed are you, dear one, so full of hope, you whose horizon extends far beyond what your eyes can see. May your celebration be sweet and delicious and perhaps contain some singing. This new thing is worth rejoicing. May the joy that buoys you today carry you through the difficult spots to come.

And blessed are you, closing the door on something you once loved. A home. A dream. A business. A marriage. You who fought and pleaded, tried and prayed. When the weight of the world rests on your shoulders and you feel as though you may drown under paperwork. You who sit in grief and despair, and maybe a little fearful for what happens... now.

May you, dear one, find comfort from places and people you don't anticipate who remind you that you are not alone. You may be saying goodbye to something—someone dear ... but something new will be born. I cannot promise it will replace what was there, and I won't try to tell you it will always be better. But, I do believe that we can find beauty, meaning, and truth right where we stand.

In our transitions. In our hellos and our goodbyes. And yes, even on the other side.

-Camille



Lemonade in the Shade

It's a St. Andrews tradition! We share a cool drink and a sweet treat on Sundays in June and July after worship. We hope you will join us! Two volunteers each week are asked to bring lemonade and cookies for 20-25 people. If you sign up to help, please coordinate with the other volunteer for that week. Please check the refrigerator in the Youth Room to see what is already here. [Click this link](#) to sign up to help. Contact [Jeni Allen](#) or [LaVerne Byas-Smith](#) for more information.



Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Sunday

On June 9th, we will be recognizing Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Sunday. Please plan to wear purple that Sunday. Even though a number of recent studies have reported that the incidence rate of Alzheimer's and other dementias appears to have declined in recent decades, it is still an incurable disease that affects 1 in 9 people age 65 and older. The decline is attributed to improvements in modifiable risk factors. On a table in the Narthex, and linked [here](#), you'll find a flyer about *10 Healthy Habits for Your Brain*, plus additional information to bring about awareness of Alzheimer's and other brain diseases. Please take a moment to pray for family and friends who are challenged with dementia.

Treasurer's Report

Jane Thomas, Treasurer

In April our income was \$15,351, and our expenses totaled \$30,256.47. Year to date, our income is \$125,357.75 and expenses are \$144,433.33. So, we are in the red by \$19,075.58.

SAPC Staff

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Camille LeBron Powell
(ext 106)

camille@sapctucker.org

Coordinator of Congregational

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 of 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.



Vitality

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laverne@sapctucker.org

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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)
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Gretchen Perkins (ext 102)
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Financial Administrator

Helen Hoang (ext 104)
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Visit our
website

Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries- Summer Events

by Pat Baker

Please RSVP by emailing Pat Baker if you are interested in any of the following programs or events, pat@sapctucker.org

A Matter of Balance Class

SAPC will be offering the program A Matter of Balance to members of the church and the community in June, July and August. It is a FREE eight-week fall prevention workshop designed to reduce the fear of falling and increase activity levels among older adults. The program is facilitated by two certified lay leaders. Each class, of up to 16 participants, lasts two hours. Activities include group discussion, problem solving, skills building, assertiveness training, sharing practical solutions, and exercise training. The workshops will be from 2:00-4:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons in the youth room. The dates are June 18, 25, July 2, 9, 23, 30 and August 6 and 13. [Click here](#) for the flyer. To reserve your spot, please contact Pat Baker by phone or email.

Brunch at Atria Park

SAPC seniors and caregivers have been invited to Brunch and Learn at Atria Park of Tucker on Lawrenceville Highway, Saturday, June 29th from 1-2pm. If you have ever been curious about what Assisted Living is all about, this is an opportunity to find out and ask questions. They will be serving hors d'oeuvres and drinks, and discussing senior living, caregiving, and options for funding assisted living. Pat Baker will be attending and hopes you will join her. Please email or call her to reserve your spot.

July Day Trip

Looking ahead to the rest of the summer- we'll have a day trip on

Tuesday, July 16th to the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. Mark your calendars and let Pat know if you are interested in going on this day trip.

BRUNCH CHURCH



A True Pentecost Celebration - Brunch Church

by LaVerne Byas-Smith

On May 19th in Heffner Hall, we did a very biblical thing.... we had worship and fellowship over a meal at "Brunch Church," our Pentecost Sunday celebration. It was a glorious, Spirit-filled time.

Over seventy of us attended, feasting and fellowshiping at scattered tables designed to seat 10, but cozying up to accommodate the welcomed overflow. Starting early, at 9:45, after preparing our plates from the Brunch Potluck Buffet, we visited across tables whose red, mesh, "flames-of-fire" centerpieces symbolized the Holy Spirit uniting us all. Also in the center of each table were Vision Boards – collages prepared by our session and church staff to visually represent their hopes and dreams of the future St. Andrews - and a teardrop symbol of one of the marks of a vital congregation (VCI) which the table members would discuss later in the service. We reveled as we dined with one another, and with old familiar faces of long-time members [the Russ's came, as did the Todd's, down from the mountains]; but also, with newer members and regular attendees, like Bernadette and

Pat, Cameron and Nik. At 10:00 we moved into the worship service proper, yet still encouraged to continue feasting – on casseroles, donuts, brownies, bagels & cream cheese, bacon and fruit, and much more.

The worship service was as rich and full as the meal. Transported into sacred space by the Opening Voluntary, a beautiful bell choir selection, “Antiphonal Celebration,” we then sang several favorite hymns, including “Let Us Build a House,” and “The Church’s One Foundation,” beautifully accompanied (even on the Heffner piano) by Ed Weaver. The choir sang John Carter’s “Come Holy Spirit, Like the Wind,” and our Lay Reader, Carol Gordon read the full Acts 2 account of the Spirit’s coming.

One unique aspect of this service involved the whole congregation’s participation in declaring the Word. Everyone recited a Litany of Vitality, and the elders and Camille read scriptures and descriptions of the 7 Marks of Vital Congregations, which reminded us of the characteristics of a church full of the spirit of Christ and fully engaged in Jesus’ ministry to the world. Then as witness to the measure of vitality at St. Andrews, each table, led by an elder, discussed for 15 minutes the results of our VCI Congregational Survey (administered back in December) This period of reflection and group discussion added to our fellowship and worship a Spirit-filled reminder of our unique calling to be Christ’s hands and feet and body in the world.

After the Offering and its Dedication, we turned to a special time of celebration and thanksgiving -- Burning the Mortgage. Reciting a special litany and lighting afire a symbolic paper mortgage, we offered our humble thanks for God’s faithful provision to this church through people and resources. As the flames consumed the mock mortgage we celebrated – some actually cheered. We sang in closing “We are One in the Spirit,” a fitting ending to a day marked by flames, real and symbolic; feasting, a biblical ritual of thanksgiving for God’s faithful provision; fellowship, mutual sharing of food and conversation; and worship, done in Spirit, united by the Holy Spirit.

We all left Brunch Church full and wanting, as with all mountain-top experiences, to do it again. Yet, we’ve been reminded of the purpose of our filling -- to go out into the world and shed abroad the love of Christ, confident that the Holy Spirit given to us at Pentecost will always be in us with us wherever we go.

Nurture Group from Building Families

Sheree Wyatt, our Building Families specialist invites families with children age 10, or older to a Nurture Group on June 12 in the Meeting Room at 6:30 pm. There will be food and games and fun! She plans to offer another session for families with younger children later in the summer. [Click here](#) for the flyer with information, or [contact Sheree](#) to sign up.

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



June Birthdays

1 J.C. Edwards,
Robert Hall

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 Summer, the study theme is "Hope in the Lord" and in June the focus is Experiencing Hope. Contact Deanna Hall for more information.

Revelation Bible Study Class

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 Sundays at 2:00 pm as we delve deeper into the material by Bruce Gore, facilitated by Arch Baker. We will meet every Sunday in June with the exception of the 30th. Everyone is welcome!

Sunday Morning Together

A new study begins on June 2nd

Conversations on the Feast encourages participants to join in informal discussions about beliefs and values as they explore Christ's claim on their lives. Through the study of God's Word, we'll engage in conversation that will make connections between our faith and actions while we examine God's call in our lives.

Look in the weekly email for the weekly scripture and other resources (links to videos, articles, etc) you might want to check out in advance.

Join us each week in the meeting room this summer at 8:45.



Results from our Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI) Congregational Survey

During Brunch Church, we shared the results from our Vital

Congregations Initiative (VCI) Congregational Survey, which was administered to the congregation last December. At our brunch tables, every worshipper received a copy of the 'VCI Survey Results Summary for St. Andrews Presbyterian Church' (which you can access [here](#)). After a brief moment of silent reading, the table groups each discussed the survey

- 2 Jan Kepic
- 3 Craig Kubik, Ed Weaver
- 4 Deanna Hall
- 7 Jonathan Brilling
- 10 Emily Russ
- 11 Ramona Creagh
- 17 LaVerne Byas-Smith
- 18 Fernando Chen
- 20 Laura Moore
- 22 Jackie Harper, John Brooke, Nancy Reichmann
- 26 Al Smith
- 27 Sandy Bond
- 30 Adam Forrester, Jared Kubik, Corinna Papotto

June Anniversaries

- 3 Bob & Grace Reardon
 - 5 Ron & Betty Weber
 - 6 Jeff & Marianne Pattillo
 - 9 Arch & Pat Baker
 - 11 John & Carol Snarey
 - 13 David & Molly Darnell
 - 16 Jack & Phyllis Jennings
 - 19 Paul & Karen Burns, Bob & Pauline Weaver
 - 21 Tom & Mary Evans, David & Kjersti Lukens
 - 22 John & Nancy Reichmann
 - 23 Ted & Peggy Heffner
 - 26 Jeff & Lisa Bunce
 - 27 Doug & Patsy Cannon
 - 30 Charles & Nancy Mills, Basil & Laura Papotto
-

Who Are the People in Your Neighborhood?



Let's find out together! Building on the energy and excitement from Brunch Church and the discussion of our congregational survey, this summer, we'll explore our neighborhoods and get to know who our neighbors are. Session members will do some targeted, in-depth interviews, but we

results for *one* of the Seven Marks of Vital Congregations. We encourage everyone to continue individually processing the survey results for all of the Seven Marks as they are experienced here at St. Andrews. If you have observations to share or questions, please submit them via the [Google Form](#) or by submitting them in the "VCI Comments box" located in the Narthex.

need the whole congregation to participate by sharing observations and encounters. Look for more information later this month!

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:

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[Click here](#) to donate online

Text 'PDA' to 20222 to donate \$10

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