

# November 2024 The Lamplighter

### Ministry Spotlight: Reformation Sunday

On Sunday October 27th, we celebrated God's reforming work in the church. Many thanks go out to all those who helped to make the day special.







### From the Pastor

Back in May, we tried something new—Brunch Church. We gathered around tables in our fellowship hall for potluck brunch and worship. We remembered Pentecost and the church's birth, shared fellowship, sang hymns, prayed, heard the Word proclaimed, reviewed the results of our Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI) Survey, and marked our new debt-free era by symbolically burning our mortgage. In all we said and did together that morning, it was our goal to glorify God.

It was an unusual way to worship, but you all figured it out, and soon, folks were asking when we would do it again! The Sunday before

Thanksgiving, the last Sunday before the season of Advent begins, seemed like an appropriate time to try Brunch Church again. This time, instead of processing information from our VCI congregational survey, we want to focus on gratitude for the Holy Spirit's presence with us and the guidance given to us during our 40 days of prayer and discernment. This worship service will be part of our continuing discernment of the information we have gathered over the past several months and exploration of potential areas for growth as we listen for God's new calling for us in the future.

Please help us with Brunch Church on Sunday, November 24th. Brunch starts at 9:45 am. Worship begins at the regular time, 10:00 am. The church will provide coffee, beverages, and donuts. We ask members to contribute breakfast casseroles, fruit and cheese platters, and other brunch items. Please bring them to Heffner Hall by 9:30; we'll need many hands to set up, serve, and clean up. Please sign up here. Contact Jeni Allen or LaVerne Byas-Smith for more information.

Stick around after worship for our annual Hanging of the Greens. As we prepare our campus for the Christmas season, many hands are needed for tasks of every ability level. Join us!

I know the world continues to feed on anxiety and encourages us to live out our fears. There are a lot of uncertainties ahead, but while we do not know *what* the future holds, we do know *who* holds the future. What better thing to do in a time like this than come together to worship, give thanks, and share food and fellowship with our church family?

Camille



### Keep Reading & Praying Through the Season of Discernment

During our Season of Discernment, through reading select scripture passages and praying together as a congregation, we've been "Seeking a Word from God." Continue using the prayer guide found here through the 40th day, November 15th, and listening intently for God's voice giving you a word or words for reflection. In this way we are seeking God's leading for our next steps in the work God has for this church. You can also sign up for daily messages by texting @sapcpray (put this in as the message) to 415-759-3883. And don't forget to submit the words or phrases you "hear," in other words, that are elevated in your spirit and mind during your meditations, by turning them in at the Ushers' table in the narthex. At the end of the 40 days, together we'll all process the submitted words during our Brunch Church worship gathering on November 24th.

We look to God to direct our path forward, and trust that as we all listen for God's Words and together pray in the Spirit, God is faithful to

make His will known to us. Let us all be faithful to ask.

### December Day Trip

It's not too early to plan for our Christmas/Holiday Outing! On Wednesday, December 18th we're planning to attend the 10:30 am matinee performance of *Winter Wonderettes* at the Art Station in Stone Mountain. *Winter Wonderettes* puts on an energetic and glittering holiday package of seasonal music and entertainment.

We'll dine after the show in downtown Stone Mountain at the Sweet Potato Café.

If we are going to get tickets to the one matinee (it is a small venue, and some seats are already reserved) then I need to know of your interest in attending by November 4th. Tickets at \$17.10 each. Please contact Pat with questions or an interest in attending.

### Montreat Church Retreat April 22-25, 2025

Save the date! All St. Andrews adults are invited to attend our retreat next Spring at the Montreat Retreat Center, located in the mountains of North Carolina.

Our program will be presented by Rev. Dr. Laurie Furr-Vancini. This is what she sent us about the subject matter...

Friends, family, past, present, celebrations, churches and organizations, times of life, transitions of all kinds, celebrations, mournings....All of these (and so much more) make up the bits and pieces of our lives. When you put those bits and pieces next to each other through in mosaic style, you can begin to see the beauty and wholeness which hold both beauty and brokenness. We will explore life as mosaic, mosaic as prayer, nature and community as mosaic as we "play" together. We will learn about and dabble both in traditional and nontraditional mosaic form. No artistic talent required!

We will be staying at the William Black Lodge again, and the rates (room and board) are the same for 2025 as they were for last year.

<u>Please RSVP to Pat Baker by November 4th</u> if you might have an interest in attending, or call if you have any questions: pat@sapctucker.org, 770-938-2833, ext. 111.

### Treasurer's Report Jane Thomas, Treasurer

In September, our income was \$84,638.25, and our expenses totaled \$48,495.42. Year to date, our income is \$345,617.75 and expenses are \$333,952.41. So, we are in the black by \$11,665.34.

### SAPC Staff

#### Pastor

Rev. Dr. Camille LeBron Powell (ext 106) <a href="mailto:camille@sapctucker.org">camille@sapctucker.org</a>

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)

<u>ejweaver@bellsouth.net</u>

# Director of Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries

Pat Baker (ext 111) pat@sapctucker.org

#### Director of St. Andrews School



## Election Day Event at Druid Hills Presbyterian

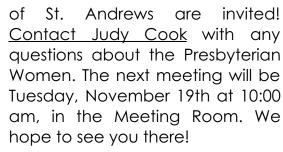
Druid Hills Presbyterian is opening their sanctuary on Tuesday, November 5th from 11 am - 7 pm. There will be prayer services at noon and 6 pm and music and prayer stations throughout the day.

Live music will be provided by musicians from throughout the Presbytery - Jen Weier from St. Luke's, Drew Wilmesherr from UKirk, Lucas Gray from Shallowford, and Anthony Mobley from Stockbridge.

Everyone is welcome to come!

# Presbyterian Women

The PW continue their study *Let Justice Roll Down* by Patricia K. Tull. All of the women



Lonnette Bruce (ext 120) sasdirector@sapctucker.org

### Office Manager

Gretchen Perkins (ext 102) office@sapctucker.org

Financial Administrator
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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



### **Crismon Making**

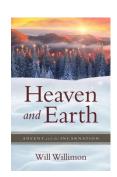
Join us on Monday, November 18th at 11:00 am in the Meeting Room for our annual Crismon making. Contact Margaret Williams with any questions.

# Daylight Savings Time Ends

Remember to set your clocks back this Saturday night.

# Advent Study Book

Everyone is invited to join the Sunday Morning Together class during Advent to study Will Willimon's Heaven and Earth: Adventure and the Incarnation. Discussions start Sunday, December 1st. Join us at 8:45 in the Meeting Room. Copies of the book are available for \$10.00 each. Contact the office or Mike Bearden to reserve your copy.



# Preparing the Table for Our School Family by LaVerne Byas-Smith

Every year St. Andrews School invites its parents and grandparents to their annual Thanksgiving Luncheon. School Director, Lonnette Bruce, and her assistant, Sharon Gundy, cook a full Thanksgiving dinner, complete with turkey, dressing, macaroni and cheese, and green beans. School parents look forward to this annual holiday event, which will be on Thursday, November 21st in Heffner Hall.

As we did last year, St. Andrews' Church En-Core volunteers will help with the celebration. Bruce and Gundy really appreciate the extra hands. Before En-Core the school directors spent the whole time working over the food in the kitchen. Now, with volunteer help they can enjoy the meal alongside their school parents and children. In addition to En-Core's help, last year several St. Andrews members contributed desserts. This year Presbyterian Women have agreed to provide the desserts, which will be very much appreciated.

En-Core's help leading the children in activities also allows parents to freely eat and visit by engaging the children after they've eaten. Last year, Pastor Camille led rambunctious kids in an impromptu dance party. The children had a blast, and the parents enjoyed watching their children burn off the sugary desserts.

This year, in addition to Camille's return appearance, En-Core volunteers plan to set up a Thanksgiving photo booth. The children will choose from costume props and gratitude signs adorning themselves as they pose in front of parents taking souvenir pictures. Other activities will include a coloring and craft table. We'll have lots to keep the kiddos occupied after they finish their meal.

En-Core invites church members to join in helping the school set up tables for the expected gathering of seventy-five on Wednesday afternoon at 1:30pm. If you'd like to contribute baked goods for the Thanksgiving meal, you may bring them Thursday morning from 10:00 – 11:00 am.

We're grateful for this opportunity to love on our school community. If you are available to help, please <u>contact LaVerne</u> to volunteer.



### Advent Begins Sunday, December 1st

Advent begins Sunday, December 1st. Our theme is *Words for the Beginning*. And we will use materials from Sanctified Art. Advent devotionals, which include prayers, journal prompts, reflections, original art, and coloring

pages, all inspired by our scripture texts for the season, will be available at Brunch Church, the in Narthex, and outside the church office in the breezeway, beginning November 24th. Stay tuned for details as we approach this season of reflection and anticipation.



### 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 Fall, the study theme is "Worship in the Covenant Community," and in November the focus is Psalms of Thanksgiving. Contact Deanna Hall for more information.

## 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.

### **Revelation Bible Study**

We are going 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. Everyone is welcome!

### November Birthdays

- 3 Louis Todd
- 6 Bill Beeson
- 7 Pat Zrolka
- 8 Carolyn Krutoy, Janet Shiver
- 10 Heather Morse
- 12 Mary Evans
- 13 Deb Chambers
- 14 Betty Weber, Linda Weaver
- 17 Tami Phillips
- 20 J. D. McFarlan
- 22 Shannon Maloney
- 25 Peggy Heffner
- 26 Marianne Pattillo, David Shiver

### November Anniversaries

- 2 Paige & Craig Kubik
- 22 Deanna & Robert Hall

## **Upcoming Elections**

If you haven't voted yet, it's an election year. Click this link to go to the My Georgia Voter site where you can check your voter registration, poling place location, and more.

# **Christmas Joy Offering**

We will take the annual Christmas Joy offering on Sunday, December 1st.



### Sermon Series: Loving Your Neighbor in Divisive Times

ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



IN DIVISIVE TIMES

November 3 All Saints Sunday We Choose Nonviolence Mark 6:29-31

#### November 10

We Repair the Breach Acts 16:11-15

#### November 17

We Remember Our Calling 1 Corinthians 13:1-13

#### November 24

Brunch Church - Hanging of the Greens Isaiah 43:18-21

# "Seeking A Word from God"



# Hurricane Helene and Milton Response and Relief

Here are four ways you can give and make a difference:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has already deployed National Response Teams to Florida, North Carolina, and. Georgia to support the congregations and communities affected by the storms. If you would like to contribute a financial gift to support PDA's immediate and long-term work to help these areas rebuild and recover, you can give here
- The Montreat Conference Center and surrounding areas have suffered significant damage. Montreat is a special place to many in our congregation. It's where we've held retreats and sent youth to conferences for years. Your gift to the Montreat Hurricane Relief Fund will directly support relief efforts in this beloved community. For updates and to donate visit their website.
- Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, located between Cherry Street downtown and the Montreat gate, has power. The congregation is actively serving as a relief station, providing meals, water, power, and respite for those in need. You can contribute directly to help them continue this vital work here.
- Pray: Please continue to pray for all those affected by Hurricane Helene and Milton—the families, communities, and relief workers. Pray for healing, strength, and resilience in the weeks ahead.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church





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