



Ministry Spotlight: Back-to-School Carnival

The Back-to-School Carnival on August 10th was a huge success. Initial estimates indicate we hosted around 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!





From the Pastor:

“To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.”

—Karl Barth

Maybe it's the political conventions, election countdown, hurricanes, and unrelenting heat. Perhaps it's the power grab and reckless destruction by Russia and the fighting back by Ukraine. Or Israel and the people of Gaza, where a cease-fire seems less and less likely by the day. Maybe it's the fight for civil, gender, and fundamental human rights that some of us mistakenly believed had been settled long ago. It could be all the broken hips, ankles, air-conditioners, and roofs. Or maybe it's just me and my corner of the world, with my messy family and life with two teenagers, but I see so much disorder in the world—the kind we need to rise up against.



So often, we're too tired or don't know where to start, but Reformed theologian Karl Barth reminds us that we already have a powerful tool at our disposal. Barth said, “To clasp the hands in prayer is the beginning of an uprising against the disorder of the world.” Prayer, in that sense, is revolutionary. Prayer is often what we do when we don't know what else to do. I know I've said it before, but I don't think our prayers work by changing God's mind or calling God's attention to something when God is otherwise distracted by many things. I believe prayer has more to do with what it does to the ones praying.

Sometimes, we ask for prayers for a particular situation or tell someone who has just shared difficult news that we'll be praying for them. That may feel like a cop-out, but there is something quite powerful about sharing the load. Having more people praying for your concern doesn't increase your odds of getting the outcome you want, but it does increase the number of people who can support you, so you don't feel quite so alone. Praying for someone may not feel all that helpful to them, but the gift of the Christian community is that when you might not have the words or the energy to pray yourself, others can step in and speak the prayers for you. *The Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words* (Romans 8:26).

A few weeks ago, when we had the Blessing of the Backpacks at the Tucker Farmers Market, we brought out the prayer trellises we first used in October of 2020 for our drive-through “Pets, Prayers, and Pledges”

event. We placed the trellises again, this time in the grassy area between the ramp to Heffner Hall and the driveway to the West parking lot. We invited the folks at the farmers market to add their prayers by writing on a tag and attaching it to a trellis. We'll leave the trellises up at least through the market season. We'll collect the tags and pray for each during our weekly Church at Prayer group.



You are invited to stop by and add your prayers, too. And if you want, stop and read some of the prayers tied on and add those to your own prayers. The disorder of the world may feel overwhelming. The uncertainty in your own life might make you feel like you don't even have the words to begin to pray. But God gives us the gifts of community and the Holy Spirit. As we affirm in *A Brief Statement of Faith*, "In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing." And that same Spirit, "intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

Next month, you will be invited to pray for a word of discernment about this congregation based on what we've learned by listening to our neighbors this summer. We will spend a season in prayer, seeking a word from God about how St. Andrews is called to be vital in this time. You can look forward to hearing more about that next month.

Peace,
Camille

From Management Ministry **Kim Rometo and Basil Papotto**

As leaders, we are tasked with many things from maintenance to ministry to money management. Church leaders are to be good shepherds: as servant leaders we should never walk by "a problem". That is not to say that we should view the world as an endless series of challenges, but rather we should be vigilant in our journey when seeking the light in the world.

As many of you may have noticed, it has been a busy year for the Management Ministry. The mortgage debt was retired. After a series of upgrades, we are back in compliance with the Fire Inspector. A Financial Review Committee was convened, led by Edward Forrester, and the Session received their report on July 14th. Air conditioning units for the Education Building and Music Room and Youth Lounge were

repaired. The Worship computer was added to the church network and additional audio-visual work to get the screens and monitors fully functional was completed at the end of August.

Working with Management member-at-large, Fernando Chen, the Education and Administrative Building roofs were replaced, and the Sanctuary roof was also repaired. These repairs were covered by our insurance company, Brotherhood Mutual. Little did we know we would need to re-engage Brotherhood and West Roofing when a tree fell onto the Education Building in June. Those repairs are now complete.

To keep our campus safe, we proactively had all trees on our campus inspected after the fall. During the week of July 26th the trees that were identified as potentially dangerous behind the Education Building were cut down. A cluster of them were in the location where the original tree had fallen. We will be collaborating with the Caring for Creation team to identify opportunities to plant new trees in other locations on the property.

There is so much more we want to accomplish this year: upgrading the failing phone system, modernizing the church website for mobile phones and increasing search engine optimization so the church and school are more easily found online, and working on building and grounds improvements. To cut expenses we would prefer to perform proactive preventative, rather than deferred maintenance, work. Ideally, we would be less dependent on a few volunteers to perform grounds maintenance and lawn mowing; however, volunteers do reduce expenses. If you are able, please consider volunteering to help with our significant maintenance and ground needs. Express your interest to any church leader or call the church office. We welcome any and all willing hands.

As you may have seen in this *Lamplighter*, we are approximately \$11,000 in the red for the year. We'd like to remind everyone to please check your financial statement to make sure you are current with your pledge and, if possible, contribute a little more to help close the gap. The generosity of this congregation has never failed, and we trust in you that we will end the year solvent.

St. Andrews - Embracing our Whole Campus in Community

by LaVerne Byas-Smith

St. Andrews' campus buzzes lately with increased activity. From the recent annual Back-to-School Carnival to the weekly Tucker Farmers Market, Friday night AA meetings and Sunday afternoon worship services of Cristo Para Todas Las Naciones, people of sundry backgrounds are coming and going throughout the week. Our Older Adult and Caregivers ministry hosts a variety of workshops, including A Matter of Balance, and Auditory awareness, bringing church and community members together in these popular classes. And several outside organizations have utilized our space. It's a blessing to share with so many this wonderful space God has given us stewardship.

But something new, something other than space-sharing has germinated, with two of our campus residents – the Farmers Market and St. Andrews School. And it's a good thing. St. Andrews increasingly embraces the whole of our campus as Our Community. This is more than just proximity. The Tucker Recreation Center, for example, is close by, as is the Mangrum law firm. But most SAPC members rarely see, let alone interact with their workers. While both are our neighbors, who would call either part of the St. Andrews community?

It's different with Tucker Farmers Market (TFM); and even more so with St. Andrews School (SAS). As they operate on our campus and in our

buildings, we increasingly find ourselves extending *our presence* into *their* spaces. While there we've found welcome, and *our purposes* have flourished in their context. SAPC's relationship with these two entities differs greatly. Technically our relationship with TFM is just a land use agreement. SAS on the other hand is a ministry of the church.

With such disparate affiliations one would expect divergent interactions with TFM and SAS. However, our past interactions with both were similarly distant; our activities rarely intersected. They both operated with minimal interaction with the church, except members shopping at the Market, and the school transferring payments to the church. Recently for both this has begun to change. We discern God moving on our campus -- and in us -- to draw us together with both the school and the Market in greater unity for God's purposes.

What does "greater unity" with the Farmers Market look like? It starts with seeing the market and its shoppers as people to reach and serve with the love of Christ. Pastor Camille led the way offering the Blessing of the Back Packs to families shopping at the market. She blessed backpacks and distributed Bag Tags to school kids who came backpacks-ready to receive. Last fall Camille also conferred Pet Blessings on St. Francis, Patron Saint of Animals, Day. At our Free Books Table market shoppers take as many free books as they like, also receiving information about SAPC and our activities. Table volunteers engage browsers, many obviously seeking community as well as books. Several "regulars" return weekly to the Book Table to browse, but also to talk. Listening is another way we love our neighbor. Our latest ministry effort at the Market, Intercessory prayer, uses the Prayer Trellis as a way for shoppers to submit prayer requests. Shoppers grab a tag off the trellis, write their request, and tie it back on, assured that our Church @ Prayer group will pray over their concern. We've publicized the Prayer Trellis on the Market's FB page.

Market management welcomes our incursions into their spaces, providing gratis our booth and during the Blessings AV equipment. They regularly publicize our appearances on their website and Facebook page. TFM extends our ministry beyond our sanctuary yet right on our campus, enabling us to reach in love and service neighbors who might never come to church.

Recent developments regarding St. Andrews School represent a turning point in our relationship with the school. Far too long the school community, while officially a ministry of SAPC, felt distant and unseen by the church. Far too often church members referred to SAS as "them," betraying a mindset of disunity, even alienation. While the school operates in our space, except for two church families whose children attend, we rarely engaged the school community. Despite a difficult history of missteps, Camille, Session, and other church and school leaders have turned the page in this relationship. The rewriting of the school constitution, and the reinstatement of a school board, anchor our efforts to further integrate SAS families and faculty into a more unified St. Andrews community. En-Core service activities – Storytime, Music Class, serving families at the school Thanksgiving meal and facilitating church love offerings – provide a balm of relational overtures. Management Ministries' recent physical improvements of the education wing – the new roof, most notably – and scheduled further improvements signal the church's renewed commitment to the school. The path has been laid. These demonstrations of our rededication give us greater credibility as we work to revitalize our connection with St. Andrews School and draw them closer in Community.

How else might we work towards unity with SAS? Perhaps most consequentially, by reestablishing a new school board where church members will serve alongside school parents for the betterment of

SAS. Pray now for SAPC members who will agree to serve. If you are asked, be willing, with God's grace, to fulfill this very important assignment.

The Fall BBQ, coming soon on September 29th, presents another more casual opportunity. We invite all SAS families to attend. Weather permitting, we'll provide courtyard seating and games leaders so school parents can enjoy their food and fellowship, while their children play in the courtyard. Every church member should make a point to welcome and engage our SAS guests and make them feel a part of the homecoming.

Our En-Core volunteers, with security clearance from the State of Georgia, enter SAS spaces each week at Storytime and Music Class. SAS teachers and children delight in the reading and singing activities. En-Core envisions lots of ways SAPC might serve the school community, limited only by the number of church members willing to volunteer. This Christmas En-Core invites SAS students and families to join SAPC in producing a Pageant for the Christmas Eve Family Service. We're teaching the children Christmas songs and inviting SAS parents to participate alongside SAPC members as readers. Welcoming SAS in Christmas Eve worship will foster greater community as we work together to glorify God.

God is doing a new thing on our campus at St Andrews. Can you perceive it? There's a long history here of serving our neighbors. But something more is happening. At the Tucker Farmers Market, where people from far and wide come here to us, and at St. Andrews School, where too often they've not felt a part of us, we're entering their spaces with our purpose to show God's love. Going outside our church walls into TFM and SAS, we're directing our love and service beyond our membership, and in so doing we're developing a more unified, expanded community right here on our whole St. Andrews campus.



Fall BBQ

We are eagerly anticipating the fun and fellowship of our fall BBQ, which will be held on Sunday, September 29th after worship. Seating will be available in Heffner Hall and in the courtyard, with outdoor games set up for even more fun. We are inviting our partner congregation, Cristo Para Todas Las Naciones and the families of St. Andrews School to join us!

Save the date and sign up to help or to bring a side dish; here's the [link](#).

Treasurer's Report

Jane Thomas, Treasurer

In July our income was \$42,144.00, and our expenses totaled

[SAPC Staff](#)

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Camille LeBron Powell (ext 106)

\$10,435.04. Year to date, our income is \$247,570.50 and expenses are \$258,988.90. So, we are in the red by \$11,418.40.



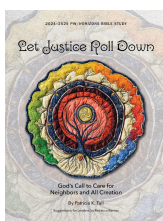
Caring for Creation

Can you believe we had around 400 people at our carnival in August and produced very little trash headed to the landfill?

You can thank Margaret Ellingson, Deanna Hall, and our Caring for Creation group for help helping us find ways to reduce the amount of non-compostable and non-recyclable trash we produce at the event. Margaret and Deanna are pictured here with what's left of the carnival headed to recycling and composting facilities. It wouldn't have been possible without separate waste receptacles and Deanna 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 made improvements over the last year and still have more ideas for improving and reducing our landfill waste 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 or Deanna.

Presbyterian Women

The PW are getting ready for their new study *Let Justice Roll Down* by Patricia K. Tull. Please [contact Mary O'Brien](#) if you would like to order a copy of



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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

Flowers for Worship

If you would like to bring flowers for Worship, [Click here](#) to sign up. The flowers can be from your yard or the store.

Free Workshop from Building Families

You are invited to join our local Specialist Sheree Wyatt on Zoom Saturday, September 14th at 11:00 am for a free workshop on Zoom: "Rituals for Saying I Love You." It will be a great time to

the book. All of the women of St. Andrews are invited! [Contact Judy Cook](#) with any questions about the Presbyterian Women. Meetings will be held on the Third Tuesday of the month, at 10:00 am, in the Meeting Room and [on Zoom](#), (password: PWCircle) with the first meeting on September 17. We hope to see you there!

learn about ways to tell your children and grandchildren that you love them. No need to RSVP, [click this link](#) to join on Zoom.



SEPTEMBER 8
JOIN US!
Breakfast, 8:45 am

RALLY DAY

Learn about Sunday School for Children and Adults.

St. Andrews Presbyterian Church sapctucker.org

The graphic is a dark grey rectangle with white text. At the top left, it says 'SEPTEMBER 8' in a small font, followed by 'JOIN US!' in a large, bold, serif font. Below that, 'Breakfast, 8:45 am' is written in a smaller font. In the center is a colorful logo for 'RALLY DAY' where each letter is inside a different colored, 3D-style block. Above the 'Y' is a stylized cross made of colorful triangles. Below the logo, the text 'Learn about Sunday School for Children and Adults.' is centered. At the bottom, 'St. Andrews Presbyterian Church' and the website 'sapctucker.org' are listed.

Rally Day 2024

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. Romans 12:2

St. Andrews offers many opportunities for renewing our minds. We'll highlight many of them as we kick off our new year of Faith Formation at Rally Day, Sunday, September 8th at 9:00 a.m. in the Youth Room. We'll share our fall plans for the Saturday study group, Closer Walk, our Sunday classes for children, and our three adult Sunday options: the Fidelis class, Sunday Morning Together, and the afternoon Revelation Class. Hear the focus of the mid-week Lunch & Learn, and how Light of Grace blends dance and bible study. Recognizing that our faith is formed outside of the classroom as well as in, this year we'll highlight a variety of ministry activities where you can grow as a disciple through service, including Missions, Caring for Creation and Clifton Ministries, among others.

Rally Day begins with a light breakfast of coffee, juice and pastries. Following an introduction of our Sunday school teachers, the children will head off to class, while the adults listen to the education and ministry presentations. Come and be encouraged in your Christian growth as you hear all that's available to you at St. Andrews.

Day Trip - So Much More than Marionettes

The Center for Puppetry Arts is a unique cultural Treasure - a magical place where children and adults are educated, enlightened and entertained. Since 1978, the Center has introduced millions of visitors to the wonder and art of puppetry and has touched the lives of many through enchanting performances, workshops, and the hands-on museum. As an adult I hope that the exhibits and pictures will bring back fond memories of old TV shows and puppets from your childhood and will bring smiles to your faces.

Join us on Tuesday, October 1st for a trip to the Center for Puppetry

Arts, followed by lunch at Mary Mac's Tea Room. We'll meet at the church by the office at 9:50 to leave by 10:00 am. The cost for the Center is \$16.50 for adults and \$14.50 for seniors. No need to pay in advance; bring a credit card for payment with you for the box office on the day of the event. **RSVP to Pat Baker** by September 20th.

Senior University of Georgia

The Senior University of Georgia (SUGA) is a lifelong learning opportunity for Seniors in Tucker and the surrounding area. In-person classes are available on Wednesday and Friday mornings and classes are available on Zoom on Tuesday and Thursday mornings on Zoom with no tests or extra reading. One can pick and choose among the 12 classes offered each quarter.

Subjects range from national and local current events, history, science, health, literature, art and more. They have excellent instructors, fieldtrips and coffee breaks. SUGA will even help seniors who need help connecting online and have them Zooming their classes in no time.

Senior U is a non-profit organization and is in its 45th year of serving classes for older, active, curious people. More information can be found on their website WWW.SU-GA.ORG or by emailing sugaatlanta@gmail.com.

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 September the focus is Leaders Set Worship Example. 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!

September Birthdays

- 1st Adrienne Morse, Evelyn Morse
- 3rd Edward Forrester
- 6th Nancy Davenport, Merle Westbrook
- 12th Katey Johnston
- 16th James Jordan
- 18th Micah Nelson
- 19th Linda Johnson
- 20th Paul Burns, Lynn Kozlosky
- 27th Scott Williams

September Anniversaries

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

Tucker First UMC Shower Ministry

Sunday afternoons our neighboring congregation opens their doors to the unhoused in our community. They offer showers, laundry service, and a meal. Click

[this link](#) for more information and click [here](#) to sign up to help.

Church Ambassadors

More visitors are joining us on Sunday mornings for worship – what a blessing! We need additional leaders willing to greet them after service and answer any questions they might have about St. Andrews. Would you consider serving occasionally as a Church Ambassador? All you have to do is stand with Camille in the narthex, being available to engage visitors interested in learning more about our congregation. To join our group of St. Andrews Ambassadors, sign up [here](#) or [contact Jeni Allen](#), or [LaVerne Byas-Smith](#).

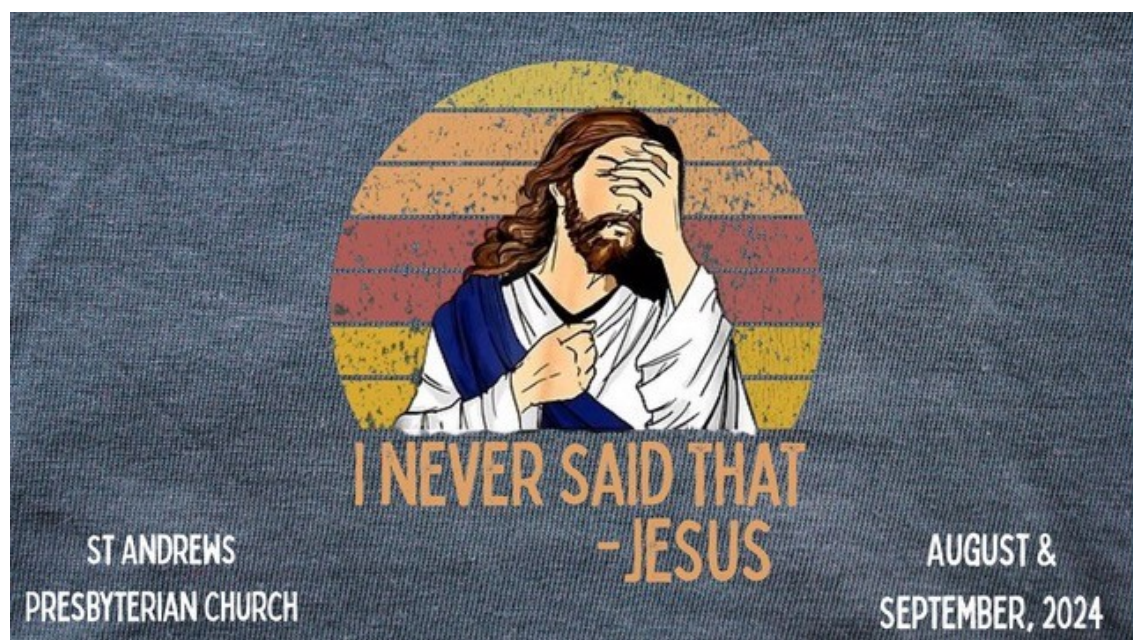
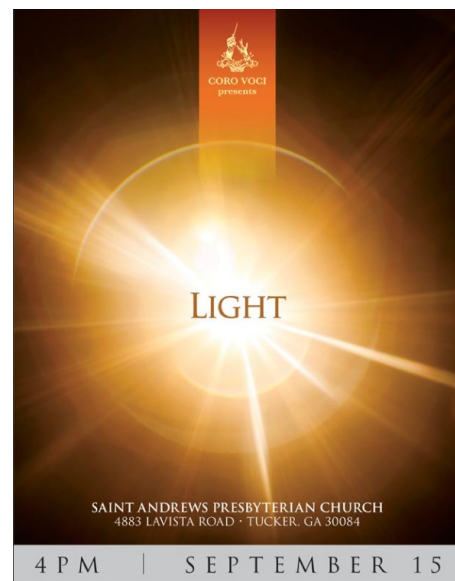
Upcoming Elections

Just in case you haven't heard, it's an election year. [Click this link](#) to go to the My Georgia Voter site where you can register to vote, check your voter registration, polling place location, request a mail-in ballot, and more.

Coro Voci Concert

All are invited on Sunday, September 15th at 4:00 p.m. to the sanctuary of St. Andrews for a concert of choral music from Coro Voci. The theme of the concert is Light, and will feature music from various composers.

Coro Voci is a group of musicians from Atlanta, GA, directed by Ed Weaver, who meet to share their love of music.



Sermon Series Continues: I Never Said That -Jesus

September 1	Hymn Sing — <i>I DID say that!</i>
September 8	<i>Money is the Root of All Evil</i>
September 15	<i>God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle</i>
September 22	<i>God Said It, You Should Believe It, That Settles It</i>
September 29	<i>Love the Sinner, Hate the Sin</i>

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

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