



## Ministry Spotlight: Our Children Retell the Christmas Story

The Christmas Eve Family Service brimmed with joy and excitement as families gathered to watch their little ones perform in St. Andrews Christmas Pageant. Children from both church families and school families participated in the program, drawing myriad parents and siblings, grandparents, friends and neighbors to our 5:00 Candlelight Service. It was a full house.

Twenty-eight children, ages three to 13, donning costumes of biblical characters, progressively built the traditional Nativity Scene. Mary and Joseph tended their baby in the manger. A host of angels announced the Birth to shepherds in the fields watching their sheep. (There were two adorable wooden sheep perched under the Christmas tree.) They responded with a drumming performance during the selection "Little Drummer Boy." And Magi arrived in regalia to present gifts to the child. Advent readings from Luke and Matthew narrated the dramatic action, and children's musical selections, complete with hand movements, punctuated the drama. "It was a joyful presentation of the traditional Nativity scene. While not completely/technically biblically accurate, it captured the essence and awe of the story of Jesus's birth," shared Pastor Camille.

This year's pageant was possible only because En-Core volunteers agreed back in August to host regular Music Classes at SAS as part of their service. Gretchen Perkins, Phyllis Bearden and Bernadette Angelo taught the class twice a month. Shortly after the classes began, the idea of a pageant germinated. The teachers started teaching pageant music shortly thereafter, and LaVerne wrote a script. Many school families enthusiastically embraced the idea, attracted by the enrichment opportunity for their children. "For our part," admits LaVerne, "we just wanted to expose them to the story of God's great love for us in the gift of Jesus." Several school families have come to pageant practices on Sundays, some have even visited the worship service. A pageant is not just a performance- it's evangelism, it's outreach, it's loving our neighbors and sharing our Joy that Christ has come.







## From the Pastor

Growing up, I didn't really like my name. It was too different at a time when "fitting in" was paramount. I wanted to be like the Jennys, Melissas, and Nikkis in my class, who had cute, sparkly rainbow stickers with their names. Just try finding a sticker with "Camille" on it! I knew and appreciated the story of why my parents chose an unusual name. They wanted an uncommon name that went well with the last name. They chose *Camille* because of my mom's college roommate and its French origin. They did not choose it for its meaning—young religious ceremonial attendant—which I eventually grew into (and out of—since "young" is a stretch these days).

And then there's the last name. Despite no one being able to spell or pronounce my last name, I always liked it. I knew about the LeBrons—about their origins in France, what they did when they got to America, all the way up to how my parents met and eventually ended up in Texas. Those are my people. I loved *that*. I did not love the awkward moment on the first day of school each year when a new teacher called Roll and mispronounced *both* of my names. I'd have to wait a couple of decades before LeBron James launched to basketball fame and people could pronounce my last name reliably. But, in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, my theater teacher/speech and debate coach said he could see my name in lights: *Camille LeBron!* That helped me understand that being different and not fitting in could be a good thing. I grew to love both names and to love being different.

Over twenty years ago, I made the significant decision to change my name to *Camille LeBron Powell* when I got married. *Powell* is the name under which we chose to build our family. There is no doubt that names have power. They can define and shape you—identify who you belong to.

Now, it's time for another name change. It may take a bit longer to navigate the legal name change; but, I am choosing to return to my birth name in the new year: *Camille Susan LeBron*. Changing names is biblical. *Abram* and *Sarai* became *Abraham* and *Sarah* (Genesis 17). *Jacob* became *Israel* (Genesis 32). The disciple *Simon* became *Peter* (John 1:42). The persecutor *Saul* became the apostle *Paul* (Acts 9).

But another story in scripture reminds us of which name matters most. In Luke 13:10-17, a woman identified only as "bent over"—no name or family affiliation mentioned—gets a new name. Jesus heals her, on the Sabbath, of this pain and disability and calls her "daughter of Abraham." In this story of healing, Jesus liberates the woman from her physical infirmity and, in calling her a *Daughter of Abraham*, the

healing goes deeper. She is restored to the community and an heir to the promises made by God to Abraham.

Jesus gives this woman a new name. No longer do the names society gives her have any power over her. In baptism, Jesus gives *us* a new name, too. Now, we are called Christians—named and claimed as beloved children of God. Whatever other name you may be known by—a nickname you proudly claim, a taunt from a childhood bully that still haunts you, labels based on how you look or what you can or cannot do, legal name, adopted, married, or maiden—the only name that matters is *Beloved Child of God*. I say this as a way of sharing information, but also as a reminder to myself and all who read this—in the new year, things may change—names, political leaders, interest rates, prescriptions—but the one thing that never changes is the truth that each of us is named, claimed, and loved by God. You belong to God. In this new year, may each of us remember *who* we are and *whose* we are.

Camille

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## Worship in January

### January 5

Words for the Beginning:

The Road Isn't Straight

Epiphany

Matthew 2:1-12 | Isaiah 43:16-21

### January 12

Baptized in Love

Baptism of the Lord

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

### January 19

Let Justice Roll Down

Amos 5:21-24

### January 26

The Body of Christ

1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Annual Congregational Meeting



**Saint Andrews**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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## Treasurer's Report

### Jane Thomas, Treasurer

In November, our income was \$40,984.54, and our expenses totaled \$41,636.12. Year to date, our income is \$411,342.29 and expenses are \$408,633.48. So, we are in the black by \$2,708.81.

Please welcome Joan Barnes as she steps into the role of treasurer in 2025.

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## Congregational Meeting

Mark your calendars and plan to join us for our annual congregational meeting Sunday, January 26th in worship. The purpose of this meeting is to nominate/elect officers, receive the 2024 Annual Report, and approve the pastor's terms of call.

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## Christmas Eve Offering

On Christmas Eve we collected

## SAPC Staff

### Pastor

Rev. Dr. Camille S. LeBron (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)

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### 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)

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### Director of St. Andrews School

Lonnette Bruce (ext 120)

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### Office Manager

Gretchen Perkins (ext 102)

[office@sapctucker.org](mailto:office@sapctucker.org)

\$550 to send to NETWORKS Cooperative Ministries.

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

## Thank you!

Many thanks to all who brought donations for our 'Socks and Skivvies' collection for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries. The items we collected we collected are given to the men at Clifton in their Christmas packages. In all we collected:

1-Wallet	4-Backpacks
1-Scarf	5-Belts
1-Manicure set	5-pairs of Gloves
1-set of Long Underwear	6-packs of T-shirts
2-Hoodies	6-Body Wash
2-pairs of House Shoes	8-packs of Underwear
3-Hats	17-pairs of Socks

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

## Lessons and Carols - Thank You!

Thank you to all those who read and lead, who rang and sang, and who participated in Lessons and Carols.

And thanks to all who brought a wealth of cookies to the Christmas Cookie Celebration. After everyone had their fill of the sweet treats, 60 dozen were distributed between 5 agencies to spread some Christmas cheer.



## Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries

by Pat Baker

The older adult and caregiver ministries program of St. Andrews began seven years ago this month. It is hard to believe because it has been such rewarding work for me. The question is "Has it met the needs of this congregation?" I hope you will join me for a brainstorming/information session on January 26th at 11:45 am. We'll meet in the meeting room for 1-1½ hours. There is no commitment beyond this meeting unless you want to be more involved.

I'd like to analyze what we've done in the past, what we might want to continue to do and share some new ideas for 2025. This ministry is not only about me but what assistance/resource I can be to older adults and family caregivers. Please join me If you cannot attend but would like to offer some suggestions, I'd be more than happy to visit with you one on one.

## Rise Against Hunger

On February 2nd, St. Andrews is going to pack 10,000 meals to help end hunger around the world. We will join with Rise Against Hunger, an organization that works in countries worldwide to fight hunger, targeting communities facing high rates of food insecurity. They provide volunteer-packaged meals and other assistance, often through school feeding programs, to support nutrition, education and health for children and families facing hunger right now. They also partner with local leaders to implement

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St Andrews Presbyterian Church  
4882 Lavista Road  
Tucker, GA 30084

Join us for an exciting, hands-on volunteer opportunity as we work together to package over 10,000 meals that represent the hopes and dreams of people worldwide.

sustainable agriculture and income-generating projects that support long-term solutions to food security and empower communities to become self-reliant and thrive.

[Click this link to sign up.](#)

There are a variety of times and ways to help on February Second. Here is the schedule for the day:

- 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM Set up tables and get the room ready
- 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM Rise Against Hunger arrives with the supplies at 2 PM. We will help unload the truck and set up all the supplies.
- 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM Meal Packaging
- 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM Clean Up

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## 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.*

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## 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 Winter, the study theme is "A King Now and Forever," and in January the focus is: Our God Reigns. [Contact Deanna Hall](#) for more information.

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## A Sesquicentennial Celebration by Deanna Hall

For more years than anyone in the Fidelis Sunday school class remembers, we have used *The Present Word* quarterly Bible study series. We decided that we wanted to share the following information about it with Saint Andrews' congregation.

This series "is based on the Uniform Series, a plan for reading and studying the Bible. [--] The emphasis is on the Bible as the primary source of understanding the meaning of the Christian faith and as the most effective means of confronting persons with the significant concerns of the gospel. [--] The [Committee on the Uniform Series](#) (CUS) [of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA] marks **150 years** of educational ministry in service to the church – a

## Revelation Bible Study

We are going through Revelation verse by verse. Please join us in the church library Sundays at 2:00 pm, as we delve deeper into the material by Bruce Gore, facilitated by Arch Baker. Everyone is welcome!

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## January Birthdays

- 4 Dave Jentoff
  - 7 Victoria Ashby
  - 8 Gwen McDuffie
  - 12 John Snarey
  - 14 Linda Fouts, Evelyn Wallace
  - 17 Erik Lukens
  - 20 Tish Drury
  - 21 Jan Young
  - 23 Klara Smith
  - 25 Gloria Williams
  - 28 Jeff Bunce
  - 29 Margaret Ellingson, Bob Patton, Leslie Bunce, Robby Snarey
  - 30 Basil Papotto
-

sesquicentennial celebration! One of the distinctive features of the CUS is a collaborative process through which denominational partners engage in the common task of developing a guide for use in curriculum writing. There is no other cooperative movement for Bible study equal to this. The partners are convinced that their development of a guide for systematic study of Scripture is as valuable for the church's educational ministry today as it was in the beginning, though congregations are now engaging Christian learning in ways that may look different from what was typical of church life in the early 1990s or even the mid-1900s. The CUS leadership is constantly assessing how they can better serve the spiritual formation of learners across the life span and address the emerging needs of the church. The Committee of the Whole is firmly convinced that a systematic approach to Bible study still makes sense for today's church. The lesson outlines continue to provide a vital foundation for educational resources that help congregations take their faith formational responsibilities seriously."

*THE PRESENT WORD: Adult Bible Lessons Participant's Book.* Winter 2024-2025. Louisville KY: Growing Faith Resources, an imprint of Presbyterian Publishing Corp. p. v.

The Participant's Book, including the Scripture Notes in each lesson, are based on *International Sunday School Lessons: International Bible Lessons for Christian Teaching*, copyright © 2007 by the Committee on the Uniform Series.

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## 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.

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