



Ministry Spotlight: March Day Trip

A group of fourteen ladies from St. Andrews went up to Roswell's Bulloch Hall to see the 39th Annual Great American Cover-up Quilt Show on Friday, March 14th. The quilts were beautiful and the quilt show was followed by lunch at The Mill restaurant. A good time was had by all.



From the Pastor

Through the wonders of social media, I keep up with folks all over the country. One of my former youth group kids from the church I served in college posted a picture of her kids catching snowflakes on their tongues on the first day of Spring! Needless to say, they don't live in Georgia. But you never know around here. We've had warnings about freezes and fire dangers in the past several days. But Spring is still my favorite season.



I recently read a piece by New York Times writer Melissa Kirsch describing the start of Spring as "The Great Unclenching." In winter, we bundle up and zip our coats when we go outside. Usually, though,

we'd rather be inside, under blankets, with a mug of hot cocoa in hand. But things change when Spring comes. She writes:

"When the light returns, something unclenches in me, and I like to imagine that it does in all of us... 'Daylight Saving Time Begins.' That entry on the calendar always reads like a triumphant return, a welcome back. We tried this 'standard time' thing all winter, tried being measured and responsible with how we spent our time, and now, exhale, finally, that's over. Now, we will loosen up. Now we will stop being so withholding and rigid with our time, with our presence, with our imaginations. Now a perfectly good Saturday plan is just to meet up outside and see what develops. The season of scarcity is coming to a close and now we will spend ourselves with abandon."^[1]

Does that sound like your idea of Spring? Thinking of this time of year as a time to let go of what is clenched and opening up after a cold season of withholding sounds liberating. But Kirsch points out, "The unclenching... can sometimes be challenging. Deliberately moving from a familiar place to an unfamiliar one isn't without its discomforts." Then, she shares one new thing she learned about spring.

"When a chick is ready to hatch from its egg, it develops an egg tooth, a sharp little structure on its beak that it uses to peck its way out of the egg. How incredible! How do we grow our own egg teeth, generate our own tools to crack our own shells, escape our too-tight enclosures, and emerge into the light?"^[2]

Curious about this evolutionary and metaphorical information, I explored more and learned that chicks also develop a "hatching muscle" at the back of the neck. This specialized muscle helps the chick move its head upward so the egg tooth contacts the shell with enough force to crack the egg.^[3] The egg tooth and hatching muscle are special tools developed for the in-between time, just before the chick leaves the egg. It's fascinating!

During Lent, we've been exploring how God is "in-between" the polarities the world tries to confine us to: stranger and neighbor, works and faith, rest and growth, lost and found. Spring is its own "in-between" season when the weather can't seem to figure out what it's doing. Is it hot or cold? Wet or dry? The answer is somewhere in between. We know that living in the in-between time can be uncomfortable. There's too much unknown and uncertainty. Unclenching can be frightening. Sometimes, clenching our teeth or tightening our muscles feels like the closest thing we can get to control. If we imagine ourselves clenching something in our fists or clinging to something, the idea of unclenching and letting go of our metaphorical security blanket is scary.

But what if we think about unclenching like the chick Kirsch describes? What if we, individually and communally, are developing our own egg teeth and hatching muscles? What tools or skills might we be developing that we can use to crack out of our own shells? Perhaps we are caught in "too-tight enclosures." It's no accident that chicks and eggs are associated with Easter.

Following Jesus means living in the grace his life, death, and resurrection give us. At Easter, we celebrate Christ, liberating us from sin, fear, and death. Easter is an opportunity to celebrate that God invites us to escape our too-tight enclosures and live in the expanse of the in-between we've been given. At Easter, we celebrate that death does not get the last word, that the tomb cannot contain Christ, and that in Christ's resurrection is the promise of ours. I hope you'll join us for the rest of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter, as we develop the egg teeth and hatching muscles of our faith.

Camille

[1] Melissa Kirsch. *The New York Times Morning Newsletter*, March 8, 2025.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/08/briefing/lightening-up.html>
[2] Melissa Kirsch. *The New York Times Morning Newsletter*, March 22, 2025.
<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/03/22/briefing/spring-awakening.html>
[3] <https://ornithology.com/the-hatching-muscle/>

HOLY WEEK

ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Palm/Passion Sunday	April 13, 10 am
Maundy Thursday	April 17, 6:30 pm
Good Friday	April 18, 7:30 pm
Easter Breads and Egg Hunt	April 20, 9:00 am
Easter Sunday Worship	April 20, 10:00 am

Holy Week

As we continue through the season of Lent, I hope you will join us for our special worship services during Holy Week. The week begins with **Palm and Passion Sunday on April 13th**. In worship, we'll wave palms and shout "Hosanna!" as we remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. We will celebrate the sacraments of baptism and communion and then turn toward the passion of Good Friday.

Maundy Thursday Thursday, April 17th at 6:30 p.m. Heffner Hall

We will gather around tables to worship, share a meal, and remember the acts of Jesus during Holy Week. Our worship will include prayer, scripture, songs, a simple dinner, and the celebration of the Lord's Supper woven together. We call this day "Maundy Thursday," from the Latin word *mandatum*, which means "mandate" or "command." We remember the day Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment to love one another. All ages are welcome.

Good Friday April 18th at 7:30 p.m. Sanctuary

The choir will lead us in a Tenebrae service of lessons and carols of the cross based on ancient church traditions, which will be held in the sanctuary. *Tenebrae* is a Latin word that means "darkness" or "shadows." The service comes from the monastic tradition where, along with other daily worship, *Tenebrae* was the last service on the eves of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. A significant feature of a Tenebrae service is the gradual extinguishing of the lights and candles in the room during the retelling of Jesus' last days.

When the service is over, it will still be incomplete until Easter. You will be invited to continue the journey through Holy Week as you

depart. You will be given prayers and suggested scripture readings to guide your devotions between Good Friday and Easter. Then, you are invited to return on Easter morning to celebrate the glorious resurrection.

Easter Sunday
April 20

9:00 am Easter Fellowship & Egg Hunt, Courtyard

Easter Breads is a St. Andrews tradition that involves sharing fellowship, coffee, and pastries on Easter morning. We will also have activities for the children, including an egg hunt. Please plan to join us, and if you are able, bring your favorite pastry or bread to share.

Flowering of the Cross, Courtyard

We invite you to bring flowers from home or your yard, make a flower, or use the flowers available at the church to adorn the cross in the courtyard. This sixth-century tradition of flowering the cross is an incredibly striking and beautiful way to symbolize the new life that emerges from Christ's death on Good Friday.

10:00 am Worship

We'll celebrate the resurrection and sing "Alleluia" in worship together, meeting in the Sanctuary and on YouTube Live.

We hope you will join us for Holy Week and Easter.



Meet the McNairs

Bill and Anne McNair joined our church by transfer of letter from First Presbyterian Church in Savannah on Sunday, March 16th. Both are retired church musicians who moved to Tucker to be near family. Please extend a warm St. Andrews welcome when you meet them. We look forward to what God has in store for all of us as the church together.

SAPC Staff

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Special Offering:
One Great Hour of Sharing

We will take a special offering on Easter Sunday, April 20. Each gift to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, promotes development through the

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Giving

Online giving applies to your pledge just the same as a paper check. Secure online contributions can be made

Presbyterian Committee on the Self-Development of People, and assists in areas of disaster through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. All three programs work in different ways to serve individuals and communities in need. From initial disaster response to ongoing community development, their work fits together to provide people with safety, sustenance, and hope. If giving by check, please put One Great Hour on the Memo line; if giving online, please select Mission and put One Great Hour in the Notes.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will have our April meeting on April 15th, Tuesday at 10:00 am. We study the 8th lesson. We hope all the women of St. Andrews will come and join us. We continue to support NETWorks with personal products for women and men. Hope to see you all there. We do serve refreshments and have our social time also!

Easter Flowers

Sunday, April 6th is the last day to send in your Easter flower dedications. Dedication forms are [available here](#) or in the narthex.

Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries

by Pat Baker

The Older Adult and Caregiver ministries started the new discussion/support group in March with a great group and good conversation. We'd love to have you join us in April on the 17th at 10:30am in the church library. We are dealing with the challenges of an aging body, brain, and lifestyle. In April we'll discuss Quality of Life looking at the question "If life offers a more generous gift of time, how might we decide to spend it?" No registration is needed...just come when you feel the need. For more information [contact Pat Baker](#).

Support Our Preschool

Some ways you can help the school include:

- Voting for our Mascot: Donate to help select our mascot. Each dollar is one vote. Let us know your choice: lion, fish or butterfly. You can donate by Venmo (standrews-school-1), cash, or check.
 - [Click this link](#) to see the school's Amazon wish list.
-

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

by clicking [this link](#), or checks can be mailed to: SAPC, 4882 Lavista Rd, Tucker, GA 30084



Need a Ride - Can Give a Ride?

As we age, driving challenges seem to become greater, especially with the traffic around Metro Atlanta. If you are not attending church on Sundays or the evening events at St. Andrews because you are no longer driving at all, or after dark, we'd like to know. The Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries is working on matching up members who are not driving with members who might be willing to transport folks to St. Andrews. If you need a ride, or can give a ride, please [contact Pat Baker](#), or 770-9282833, ext. 122. Even if you can give someone a ride one way- let us know!



Revelation Bible Study

Everyone is welcome! We are going through Revelation verse by verse. Please join us in the church library Sundays at

books. This Spring, the study theme is: "the fullness of faith as a response to God's desire to be in relationship with us" and in April the focus is: Special Offerings and the Sanctuary. Contact Deanna Hall for more information.

Lenten Book Study

Everyone is welcome to join us for our ongoing book study Sunday mornings at 8:45 a.m. in the Meeting Room, beginning March 9th. We will be going through *The Final Days: A Lenten Journey through the Gospels* by Matt Rawle. Books are available for \$10 on Sunday mornings or in the church office.

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.



Special thanks to painter James Tippett and his crew for brightening the halls of our education building. Tippett and his crew volunteered their time to paint the halls and some classrooms. All we had to pay for was the



2:00 pm, as we delve deeper into the material by Bruce Gore, facilitated by Arch Baker. We will not meet on April, 20th, Easter Sunday.

April Birthdays

- 2 Cloe Drury
- 5 Meg Westbrook
- 9 Cassie Westbrook
- 11 Warren Halvorson
- 12 Jocelyn Davis, Lettie Hudson
- 13 Scott Jarvis
- 15 Ross Phillips, Camille LeBron
- 18 Kate Kubik
- 19 Carrie Edwards
- 22 Burrelle Meeks, Kim Rometo, Kim Tomberlin
- 23 Fred Akuffo
- 24 Jimmie Artley
- 28 Nancy Mills

April Anniversaries

- 7 Jeff & Connie Jackson
 - 15 David & Janet Shiver
-

39ers

The 39ers will meet on Tuesday, April 29th at Don Eduardo's at Noon. The address is 3939 Lavista Rd in Tucker. Everyone is welcome to join in the fun and fellowship.

Thank You

Dear St. Andrews Family, I am honored and humbled by your cards and emails, and the personal messages they contained, that have come to me in acknowledgement of Robert's passing, and also by your attendance at his funeral. From January 2013 – 4 February 2025, Robert suffered recurring instances of arterial blockages, on average about one every six months, usually necessitating emplacement of a stent. And yet, he continued to engage life to the extent possible, being always the warrior, while also acknowledging that his life was in God's

paint. St. Andrews School staff and families are thrilled about this and other improvements made to the campus. It wouldn't be possible without professionals like Tippet and the community generously sharing time, talents, and treasures.

hands. He was always glad that I had found St. Andrews! I am too!
Blessings,
Deanna Morrow Hall

Highlights from the March Session Meeting

Jane Thomas, Clerk of Session

- Received new members Anne and Bill McNair. Anne and Bill come to us by Letter of Transfer from First Presbyterian Church of Savannah. The entire Session welcomed them by joining in responding to the questions of Baptism.
- Changed the April Session Meeting from April 20 (Easter) to April 27.
- Elected Cindy Weimer as elder commissioner for the May 13th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta.
- Approved applying for a Presbytery "Beyond the Building" Grant. We discussed a plan to enclose the courtyard with attractive wrought iron fences and gates to provide a safe and secure space for intergenerational worship and fellowship activities, as well as safety for the children from St. Andrews School.
- Update on St. Andrews School. The School is experiencing a new day. A new Director is in place, two new teachers have been hired, and the classrooms and hallways have been cleaned and freshened. The hallway was painted with a color called "Divine White!" There is a waiting list of students who can be accepted with the new space and teachers.
- The Session agreed to think about a Zoom policy for Session meetings.

Hagar's House

Hagar's House, located in Decatur, flooded when Hurricane Helene came through last September, and has not been able to re-open. Storm water came through the roof and left extensive damage.



Operated by [Decatur Cooperative Ministry](#), Hagar's House is the only emergency shelter in DeKalb County that serves families, seeking to keep them together in times of crisis. If you are able to donate in support of this ministry, [click here](#).

Hurricane Wildfire 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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