



Ministry Spotlight: News From St. Andrews School

At St. Andrews Preschool, we are committed to providing a nurturing and enriching environment for our children. As we continue to grow and enhance our programs, we are grateful for your ongoing support. Currently, we are in need of your material support. We have created an Amazon wishlist filled with items that will directly benefit our classrooms and learning activities. Your contributions, big or small, will help us create meaningful experiences for our preschoolers. You can find the [link here](#).

If you have any questions, or would like to donate in a different way, please reach out to sasboard@sapctucker.org

We are hiring at the School and would like to post it for anyone in the church to pass it along! [Click here](#) for the flyers.

Additionally, below are a few pictures from a beautiful day on the playground at the school last week.



From the Pastor

everything [in] between:
a Lenten series in Luke's gospel
meeting God in the midst of extremes



Beginning with Jesus setting his face toward Jerusalem (Luke 9:51), we will make our way through several familiar stories—the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the fruitless fig tree, the Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus, and more. So many of these scriptures hold significance in pop culture, church history, politics, and everything in between.

As the folks behind Sanctified Art studied these familiar stories from Luke, they were struck by how Jesus' ministry was rooted in relationships that disrupted his time's established social, political, and religious divides. Perhaps because some of these stories are so well-known, and because of our distance from the day's culture, we might miss out on just how radical Jesus' words were and how extreme his teaching tactics might have felt. Jesus intentionally emphasizes God's radical, inclusive, and surprising love in these stories. When we explore these stories' historical and cultural contexts, we can see how they have much to teach us about the cultural and political divides many of us experience in our families, churches, and communities today.

The collaborators behind Sanctified Art have developed thematic material we'll use again this year. This is what they say about the theme:

"This series is an invitation to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. Each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like "faith & works" or "rest & growth," or "grief & hope." We often consider these ideas to be opposing. However, as we explore these concepts within the scriptures, we find nuance and complexity. We find that these dichotomies are false. We might begin to see a full spectrum instead of black and white. We might find that God is present in between."

We will have personal devotional booklets and daily devotional cards available in the narthex and outside the church office beginning March 2nd. We'll also post daily on the church's social media accounts:

Instagram: @st.andrewspresbyteriantucker
Facebook: @sapctucker

We hope you will join us this Lenten season as we look beyond binaries and easy answers, imagining where God might meet us beyond the categories we create. If you are trying to find your way through an undefined space, feel yourself living in a divided world, or seek a spiritual life that engages the complexity of life instead of avoiding it, we hope this season will help you on your journey and seeking. This Lent, let us trust that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.

Camille

everything [in] between

March 5	Ash Wednesday	<i>Intention & Action</i>	Luke 9:51-62
March 9		<i>Stranger & Neighbor</i>	Luke 10:25-37
March 16		<i>Faith & Works</i>	Luke 10:38-42
March 23		<i>Rest & Growth</i>	Luke 13:6-9
March 30		<i>Lost & Found</i>	Luke 15:1-7
April 6		<i>Righteousness & Mercy</i>	Luke 19:1-10
April 13	Palm/Passion	<i>Shouting & Silence</i>	Luke 19:29-40
April 17	Maundy Thursday	<i>Power & Humility</i>	Luke 22:1-27
April 18	Good Friday	<i>Acceptance & Resistance</i>	Luke 23:32-49
April 20	Easter	<i>Grief & Hope</i>	Luke 24:1-12



Ash Wednesday is March 5th

Join us this Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will have a reflective service and imposition of ashes.



Meet the Meeks Family

Zach, Sarah, Aiden, and Claire joined St. Andrews in January by transfer of letter from Buford Presbyterian Church.

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](#),

SAPC Staff

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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

Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries

by Pat Baker

OLDER ADULTHOOD SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION/SUPPORT

The Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries will be starting a new discussion and support group meeting on the third Thursday of each month starting March 20, 2025. We will meet in the church library in the office building starting at 10:30 am. We'll begin with a devotion followed by conversations around facing and dealing with the challenges of an aging body, brain and lifestyle. On occasion we'll bring in an outside speaker to address topics of interest to the group i.e. housing options, normal aging and the brain, feelings of loneliness, making your home livable and much more. No registration is needed... just come when you feel the need.

MARCH ADULT DAY TRIP

On Friday March 14th we'll be heading to Roswell for the BULLOCH HALL QUILT SHOW. The Bulloch Hall Quilt Guild is returning for their 39th Great American Cover-Up Quilt Show. The show usually displays 150+ quilts- old and new, antique and contemporary throughout this beautiful historic building. PLEASE RSVP by emailing pat@sapctucker.org or calling Pat Baker 678-439-3673. Tickets purchased by March 13th are \$8.00- tickets purchased at the door are \$10.00. After the Quilt Show we'll be heading out to lunch at the Mill Kitchen and Bar. Their menu includes small plates as well as soup, salads, and sandwiches.

SPRING ADULT RETREAT- for all adults, not just older adults!

The Spring Adult Retreat is on! We'll be going to Camp Mikell in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains, Toccoa, GA. Camp Mikell is a Camp and Conference Center of the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, Georgia. Their beautiful and expansive 460 acres have a little bit of everything: mountains, valleys, waterfalls, and the Little Toccoa Creek. The retreat starts Tuesday Evening, April 22nd at dinner with a late afternoon arrival and ends after morning worship on Friday the 25th. Camp Mikell is a 1 hr. and 35-minute drive from Tucker. We can provide transportation for those wanting to carpool.

They have 5 cottages located near the dining hall, a chapel and plenty of "hang-out" places. Each cottage can sleep between 4 and 10 people. There is room enough for folks to have their own room or to share a room with someone. Most rooms have their own bathrooms and full-sized beds and/or twin beds. Several of the cottages have screened-in porches that look over the valley and mountains. There are 3 handicapped accessible bathrooms. Cars can be parked right in front of each cottage and there are ramps everywhere.

The TOTAL price (including meals) if you share a double room is \$273.60 per person. Most of the double rooms have 2 double beds. The TOTAL price (including meals) for a single room is \$378.60. Most single rooms have a double bed and single bed or 2 single beds.

If you have questions about the retreat or want to attend, please email or call Pat Baker to reserve your space. THE DEADLINE FOR SIGNING UP FOR THE RETREAT IS MARCH 24TH.

Letter from LaVerne Byas-Smith

February 28, 2025

"We cared so much for you that we were pleased to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own lives, because you had become dear to us." 1 Thessalonians 2:8
HCSB

Starting this job in my 60s I knew it would be a limited engagement, yet my plans had me here a little longer. But God rarely abides by my plans. Still, His ways are always better. He's made it clear I should exit sooner, even as He began forecasting a new season of growth and mission for St. Andrews.

What gives me such optimism? Perhaps immersion in the Vital Congregations Initiative sensitized me to the shifts in His wind; maybe all the planning and dreaming for En-Core helped me envision what might be; more likely, all the time I've prayed with the faithful prayer warriors (they don't see themselves as warriors, but they are) in Church at Prayer gave me eyes to see the subtle unfolding of God's new season for St. Andrews. So, I admit I'm a little sad to leave before it all comes to pass. But thankful to have been a part of God's work here during my time.

I am immensely grateful, St. Andrews, for the ministry we've done together. Thank you, Camille, for the opportunity, and for the freedom to experiment and usher in new things. I will cherish the friendships I've made here and the myriad ways I have been loved. I have grown and developed new skills, even while pushing the limits of my age. But now in this new season, I must attend to other personal commitments and family demands that preclude my spending unlimited hours dreaming up new projects, attending meetings, facilitating classes, planning for Carnivals and dinners and Brunch Church and pageants and such. I'll miss walking alongside you as your "Coordinator of Congregational Vitality." It's been a gas and a ball! But I don't live far and will drop in from time to time. Besides, I can't wait to see what God does next!

Peace and love to you with faith,
LaVerne



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 Spring, the study theme is, "the fullness of faith as a response to God's desire to be in relationship with us" and in March the focus is: Faithful versus Faithless. [Contact Deanna Hall](#) for more information.

Lenten Book Study

Everyone is welcome to join us for our 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.

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!

March Birthdays

- 1 Julie Todd, Richard Russ
- 3 Pauline Weaver
- 6 Landon Millican
- 8 Phyllis Bearden
- 9 Cassie Westbrook
- 10 Carol Snarey
- 11 Robbie Floyd
- 12 Lisa Bunce
- 14 Cindy Weimer
- 15 Bob Weaver
- 18 Lynn Medlin
- 19 Tom Evans
- 20 Sarah Slusher
- 21 Carol Gordon
- 22 Arch Baker
- 25 Ted Heffner

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.



March Anniversaries

20 David & Mary McCowen
23 Mike & Phyllis Bearden
26 Dave & Mary Jentoft

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.

NETWorks Cooperative Ministry's Love Your Neighbor as Yourself Month

On February 4th, NETWorks hosted a community breakfast to share updates about this critical local mission. In 2024, NETWorks volunteers distributed 463,000+ pounds of food, 386,000+ meals, and over \$122,000 in financial assistance to our neighbors. They are working on opening the grocery coop for more days and hours of service. They've also begun working with Atlanta Food Bank to coordinate mobile food pantries at local churches.

One of the exciting and innovative developments is a community-supported farming system. Growings! at NETWorks is an indoor Hydroponic Farming System (housed with the rest of their operations on Cowen Road) that:

- Grows high-quality garden-fresh produce tailored to NETWorks' shoppers
- Is semi-automated with pumps & timers
- Uses volunteers for starting seedlings, harvesting, packaging, & maintaining the system

Each year, NETWorks celebrates February as Love Your Neighbor as Yourself month. Even though February is over, there are still ways you can join in this vital work. For suggestions, [see this flyer](#).





Change for Children - The Alliance for Children Everywhere

On the first Sunday of the month we take an offering for the Alliance for Children Everywhere, which we call 'Change for Children.' Baskets will be available Sunday morning in the narthex for this offering. Please see the message and video below from Christa Woodard, the Director of Operations for The Alliance for Children Everywhere:

On behalf of the children and families served by ACE, I want to say "thank you" for your faithful partnership for so many years. Your support and prayers have been a living example of what it means to be the church in this world.

As you may know, we are in a time of real turmoil in the sector of global relief and development. ACE, like so many other organizations, has been deeply and directly impacted by the shuttering of USAID (U.S. Agency for International Development). The impact on ACE holds large financial and programmatic implications. These implications are most acute however, "on the ground" in the countries we serve. The most negatively affected by these changes are those ACE partners with—vulnerable women, children and families.

Click here for the video: [Stand with the Vulnerable](#)

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.

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Connect with us



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