



Ministry Spotlight: Christmas Eve

We celebrated the coming of the Lord with candlelight, carols, worship and music. Many thanks go out to all who came, helped and made these special times of worship happen for our community.



From the Pastor

Each year at St. Andrews, we add a new ornament to the Crismon tree in the sanctuary. This year marks our 34th annual ornament. These ornaments are different from most of the others on your tree. The name "Crismon" comes from combining "Christ" and "monogram." Like the kind of monogram made of your initials that you might have embroidered on your shirt cuffs or luggage,

these are symbols that identify who Christ is. Some originate in ancient Christian history and tell the story of the true meaning of Christmas. Others are more contemporary but serve the same purpose. They remind us of who God is.

A highlight of our early Christmas Eve worship service is the time when I get to reveal the new ornament and share it with the children. If you missed it on Christmas Eve, this year's ornament, made by the women of the church, is a sparkling, gold handbell. Bells call us to worship and celebration. At Christmas, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus. This Advent and Christmas season, we have been exploring the question, "What do you fear?" May this year's Crismon remind you to make a joyful noise, share the hope, and remember that Good News is louder than fear! "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" – Psalm 150



Here is a blessing for the new year by Alfred, Lord Tennyson, titled "Ring Out, Wild Bells."

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow:
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more,
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out thy mournful rhymes,
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease,
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,

Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

If you would like a 2025 Crismon, they are available in the narthex, the church office, or you can contact your deacon.

Camille

January 4 - Epiphany
Fear doesn't stop us
Matthew 2:1-12, 16-18

January 11 - Baptism of the Lord
Congregational Meeting
Why Do You Come to Me?
Matthew 3:13-17

January 18
Why Go to Church?
1 Corinthians 1:1-9

January 25
Dare to Dream
1 Corinthians 1:10-18

Congregational Meetings

Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for two upcoming congregational meetings. On Sunday, January 11th, we will meet after worship to elect a new class of elders and deacons. Information about the slate of nominees will be available soon. Then, we will hold our annual Congregational meeting during worship on Sunday, February 15th. The purpose of this meeting is to receive the 2025 Annual Report, and approve the terms of call for the pastor.

Christmas Offerings

We collected \$1,040.00 in the annual Christmas Joy offering. This offering goes to support the past, present, and future leaders of the PC(USA), supporting leadership development for communities of color, and providing support for Presbyterian church workers in their time of need.

On Christmas Eve, we collected \$565.18 for Thornwell in honor of their 150th anniversary.

SAPC Staff

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Visit our website

A New Film by David Barnhardt

A new film by St. Andrews' member David Barnhardt has just been released. Sponsored by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, *Evicting the American Dream*, is about communities and families confronting the rising levels of eviction and homelessness and the root causes and systematic issues that perpetuate this epidemic. The trailer is available [here](#) and the movie is streaming on Amazon Prime.

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



Discussion/Support group

January 15th, 10:30 am, Meeting Room

Transportation and Mobility

The Complete Eldercare Planner by Joy Loverde discusses ideas for meeting transportation needs and the challenges. This can be a difficult topic to cover as we deal with the possibility of losing our independence and as we may become reluctant to continue driving in the Atlanta area. Pat Baker will lead us through this discussion including a Transportation and Mobility CHECKLIST. Join us from 10:30-11:30 a.m. in the Meeting Room.

Caregiver Support Group

Pat Baker leads a virtual Caregiver Support group every month on the third Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. If you have the responsibility of caring for a loved one, either solely or shared with other family members, this group might be for you. Pat facilitates an informal hour-long discussion with caregivers who offer you support from the comfort of your own home. The support group meets via Zoom. [Here is the link](#) to join. If you have any questions about the group, please [contact Pat Baker](#).

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention: Register Now!

One of the ways you can be kind to yourself in 2026 is by signing up for the Tai Chi for Arthritis and Fall Prevention Class. Make 2026 a year that you DON'T fall by learning and practicing Tai Chi. This 8-week, twice weekly class will help you to gain control of your balance and help those arthritic joints feel better. These sessions will be co-taught by Pat Baker and Hani Stempler, Tuesdays and Thursdays, January 27th through March 17th, from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in Heffner Hall. The class size is limited, so sign up now, if you want a spot in the class. [Click this link](#) for the class flyer. [Click this link](#) to register.

Gather. Grow. Give. Go.



- 9-9:30 Children: Joyful Noise music program (choir room)
- 9-9:30 Adults: Gather for fellowship and discussion time (youth room)
- 9:30-10 Children: Either go to Children's church for a brief Bible story and lesson (nursery) or join the adults for an intergenerational project (youth room).
- 9:30-10 Adults: Either continue the discussion or join the children for an intergenerational project (youth room).

January 4	Gather	Adults: New Year's Fellowship Children: Exploring Worship
January 11	Grow	Adults: Epiphany Children: An Amazing Star
January 18	Give	Adults & Children: Mission Project
January 25	Go	Adults & Children: Inviting all to observe Lent

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. [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.

39ers Lunch Group

The 39ers are a group that likes to meet for lunch and fellowship at noon on the last Tuesday of the month. Everyone is welcome! We are starting

January Birthdays

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

January Anniversaries

- 2 Andrew King & Melissa McNair-King
- 19 Fernando & Kayla Chen

Collections for NETWORKS

Our collection of food and hygiene items for NETWORKS is going well. Thank you for your

afresh on January 27th by going to one of our favorites- Babinelli's in Tucker. We hope that those of you who have not joined this group in the past will make a new year's resolution to join us in 2026.

ongoing generosity to our neighbors. Please keep bringing in shelf-stable food and hygiene items like adult diapers, poise pads, maxi pads and tampons to the collection bins in the Narthex. Or monetary donations to NETWorks may be made directly here.

Highlights from the December Session Meeting

Jane Thomas, Clerk of Session

- The 2026 Budget was discussed. We will wait to get a realistic year-end report and a budget for next year in February. Management will also bring recommendations regarding the undesignated gifts we have received.
 - Elected Charlton Allen as Treasurer for 2026.
 - Approved calling:
 - a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 11 to elect officers for 2026
 - a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 15 to receive the 2025 SAPC Annual Report and vote on pastoral terms of call
 - a Called Session meeting on February 8 to examine new officers and vote on the budget
 - Elected Margaret Williams as commissioner to represent St. Andrews at the Winter Meeting of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta at 9AM on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at Peachtree Presbyterian Church. Moved by Basil Papotto and seconded by Marsha Ashby.
 - Accepted the amended constitution for St. Andrews School. Mainly changing the name to St. Andrews Preschool.
 - The session agreed to attend a joint retreat with other area congregations (Decatur, North Decatur, Emory, Hillside, Oakhurst, Columbia, and Clairmont) on Saturday, January 31st. Rev. Dr. Lindsay Armstrong will be facilitating our discussions on "The Future of Congregations" and "Where Do We Go from Here?"
 - Tentative plans for New Officer transition: education/training will need to happen via Zoom soon after the election. Then the new officers can be examined by the Session at a called meeting on February 8th. Installation/Ordination would be part of the worship service on February 15th. Their first Session meeting will be on March 15th.
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Out of Chaos, Hope

Flood, Hurricane & Wildfire Response and Relief
by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is a ministry of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) which enables congregations and mission partners to

witness to the healing love of Christ through caring for communities adversely affected by crises and catastrophic events. PDA has deployed National Response Teams to the Texas Hill Country flooding, Spring tornados, Southern California wildfires, Florida, North Carolina, and Georgia to support the congregations and communities affected by the natural disasters. 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. If you would like to contribute a financial gift to support PDA's immediate and long-term work to rebuild and recover, you can give [using this link](#).

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance



***Out of Chaos,
Hope***

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Connect with us



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