

ST. ANDREW
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH



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Our Mission

We believe God is calling St. Andrew Presbyterian Church to provide an opportunity for every person to know, to love, and to experience Jesus Christ.

St. Andrew Chronicle

VOLUME XVI, ISSUE XII

DECEMBER 2013

From the Pastor ...



In the days to come ... The word of the LORD comes to the prophets not to be realized immediately, but for later. 'Later', or 'not yet' is what Advent steers us toward, not 'now'. 'Now' is the mantra of our society, a culture of microwave popcorn, instant pudding, on-demand movies. 'Now' is the call sign of iPhones and YouTube and Twitter.

It's hard to understand 'not yet' with 'now' ears. But still, *in the days to come... they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.*



Hard to hear; harder indeed to visualize as Iran continues its nuclear march and Syria obliterates her own people. Hard to comprehend even in North Alabama where primary industries and thousands of people focus their energies on military contracts and strategies.

Yet... we who claim our inheritance first and foremost as children of God are called to hope for this promise to be realized, and even to work toward the day when war will not be the solution, but rather relationship and dialogue. If we follow Jesus as our Lord, we see he does not carry a sword, nor does he work through conflict with bitterness and hatred. He uses words, grounded in love, to make his point.

God does not promise an end to conflict, but rather a different way through it, a way which honors relationships and people, a way which does not end in win/lose, but instead *shalom*. May a world of shalom be our prayer, united in hope and promise, this Advent and Christmas season.

In Christ,
Toby

December Volunteer Schedule

	Dec. 1	Dec. 8	Dec. 15	Dec. 22	Dec. 24	Dec. 29
Liturgist	Margaret Marsh	B.J. Breeding	 Christmas Cantata	Nellie Gates	Brantley Motes	Jan Foster
Advent Wreath	Philip/Nelda Gilbert	Doug/Jean Coshow	John/Joan Jordan	Don/Jan Foster	Carol/Stu Strong	
Ushers	John Abbott Jim Bochte Jim Boyd Lee Brown	Doug Coshow Harold Culbert Ann D'Olive Matt D'Olive	Dave Ellerbe George Hilleary Ceil Hydrick Margaret Marsh	Turner Matthews Harold Moore Brantley Motes David Nelson	John Newbill John Shull Stu Strong Greg Vogel	John Abbott Jim Bochte Dan Watt
Nursery	Leigh Zeiher	Ruth Bochte	B. J. Breeding	Betty Matthews	Shelly Shull	Ann D'Olive
Com-munion Servers	Dec. 1 - Barbara Allen, Jan Foster, Margaret Marsh, Brantley Motes Dec. 24 -			Communion Preparation	Dec. 1 - John & Rita Abbott Dec. 24 - Linda Grissom	

December Celebrations

Birthdays

Dec. 9: Jennifer Heeth
Dec. 13: Barbara Morris
Dec. 17: Tom Gates
 Morgan Shugrue
Dec. 18: Jim Wright
Dec. 22: Margaret Marsh
Dec. 27: Contessa Pearce
Dec. 28: Drew Coshow
Dec. 29: Bob McGehee

Anniversaries

Dec. 17: Rick & Cheryl Heeth
Dec. 21: Lee & Betty Brown
Dec. 22: Dave & Cheryl Ellerbe
Dec. 23: Sammy & Aileen Crawford



Financial Report - Dan Watt, Treasurer



At the November 10th worship service, we had our first opportunity to make financial pledges for 2014. We had 32 pledges made, for a total of \$163,228. We are still open for more pledges so that the ministries of our congregation can be planned with a 2014 budget. Of the 32 pledges, none felt

the need to decrease their pledge from their 2013 level, and approximately a third increased their pledged commitment.

Everyone is encouraged to join in the exciting new year ahead in the life of St. Andrew. Together, we can do God's work in making things happen.

Dan Watt, Treasurer

Session Notes - Stu Strong, Clerk

The following items are highlights from the November 18, 2013, Stated Session Meeting:

1. Rev. Mueller led the session in a study of the first session of a Study on Transformational Leaders.
2. The minutes for the October 10, 2013, Stated Session Meeting were approved.
3. Our membership remains at 125 as of October 31, 2013.
4. Rev. Mueller reminded the Session of her upcoming trips to Lebanon in mid-January 2014 and to Uganda in late January - early February 2014.
5. Brantley Motes reported for Dan Watt that we have received 32 pledges so far (approximately \$163,000) for 2014. We expect to receive another ten pledges. If you have not yet submitted a pledge, and intend to do so, please return it by the end of November so that our 2014 budget can be finalized in December.
6. The Session approved a Sexual Misconduct Policy. Details of this policy will be communicated to employees and our membership as appropriate.
7. Progress is being made to secure a new church administrative assistant before the end of 2013.
8. Our playground is in need of new mulch, but a decision was made to postpone the purchase of the material until after the new year, when use of the playground will increase and money should be available in the new budget.
9. Our next meeting will be on December 16, 2013, at 5:30 p.m.

Hanging of the Greens

Advent is a time of expectant waiting, and the preparation for the celebration of the birth of Christ. On Wednesday, **December 4, 2013, at 4:00 p.m.**, please join us as we prepare our church for the season at our annual 'Hanging of the Greens.' Following the decorating, **a soup supper will be provided at 6:00 p.m.** The time will conclude with a 'Hanging of the Greens' service in the sanctuary.



Christmas Brunch



You are all invited! St. Andrew Church's Christmas brunch will be held on Sunday, **December 22, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.** during the Sunday school hour. There will be no Sunday school that morning.

Please bring a breakfast food or brunch item to share. Please come and enjoy the Christmas fellowship with your church family.

PW News

Thanks to all who baked or bought items for our bake sale. The December meetings for PW will be held on Tuesday, **December 3, 2013.** The morning circle will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the library. The evening circle will hold their Christmas dinner at Ruby Tuesday's at 6:30 p.m.



Thank You!



Friends,

I am overwhelmed by your overwhelming support for Bibles for Ugandan women! Before 48 hours had passed, you had graciously donated not just enough for 30 Bibles, but enough for 50!!

Although I cannot take any more, (weight constraints for luggage!) I am humbled by your willingness to help. I know these women, and so many others, will be blessed beyond knowing by the gift of God's word to them.

-Pastor Toby

December Notes -

C.C.C. Soup Kitchen - December 9

As a part of our C.C.C. Soup Kitchen project on **December 9, 2013**, we will need desserts for the lunch meal and donations of wrapped candy for the Christmas treat bags.

There is a sign-up sheet for the Soup Kitchen in the church office for the prep day on Sunday, December 8, 2013, and for volunteers on Monday.



Choir Cantata - December 15

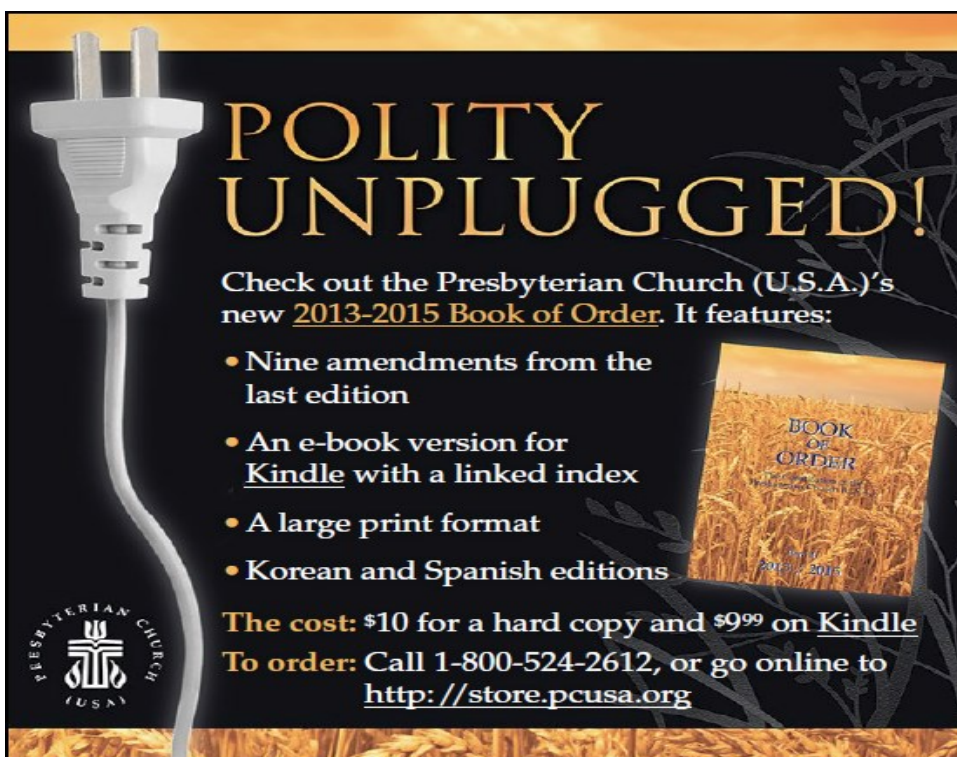
The choir will present a special cantata on Sunday, **December 15, 2013**, entitled, "A Ceremony of Lessons and Carols." Please make plans to attend and to invite your friends and family too!

Christmas Eve Service - December 24

Our Christmas Eve candlelight communion service will be held at 5:30 p.m. on **December 24, 2013**. Please bring your family and join us as we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Book of Order



POLITY UNPLUGGED!

Check out the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s new **2013-2015 Book of Order**. It features:

- Nine amendments from the last edition
- An e-book version for Kindle with a linked index
- A large print format
- Korean and Spanish editions

The cost: \$10 for a hard copy and \$9.99 on Kindle

To order: Call 1-800-524-2612, or go online to <http://store.pcusa.org>

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

New in the Library

If you enjoyed reading *The Shack*, you will definitely want to read *Cross Roads* by Wm. Paul Young. This novel tells the story of the transformation of a man caught in the torments of his own creation: somewhere between heaven and earth. Thank you, Jan Foster, for this donation to the library.

Page Turners Book Club

Page Turners will not meet in December. Our next meeting will be on January 28, 2014, at 9:30 a.m. Our next selection is *White Dog Fell from the Sky* by Eleanor Morse. Synopsis: In apartheid South Africa in 1976, medical student Isaac Muthethe is forced to flee his country after witnessing a friend murdered by white members of the South African Defense Force. He is smuggled into Botswana, where he is hired as a gardener by Alice Mendelssohn, an American woman who has followed her husband to Africa. Isaac goes missing, and Alice goes searching for him.

December 2013

Service Times: Sunday School - 9:00 a.m.
Morning Worship - 10:00 a.m.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thurs-	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion Sunday CCC Collection Sunday	2 PEO - 5:00	3 PW AM - 9:30 PW PM - 6:30 at Ruby Tuesday's Scouts - 6:30	4 Supper - 6:00 Study/Kids - 6:30 Choir - 7:30 Hanging of the Greens	5 DAR - 2:00 Scout Roundtable - 6:00	6	7
8	9 C.C.C. Soup Kitchen Chapel Hill N'hood Dinner - 6:30	10 Scouts - 6:30	11 Supper - 6:00 Bible Study - 6:30 Kids Prog. - 6:30 Choir - 7:30	12 Session - 6:30	13	14
15 Choir Christmas Program 	16 Session - 5:30 Scout Leaders mtg.- 6:30	17 Scouts - 6:30	18 Supper - 6:00 Bible Study - 6:30 Kids Prog. - 6:30 Choir - 7:30	19	20	
22 Christmas Brunch - 9:00	23	24 Christmas Eve Service - 5:30 	25 Merry Christmas! 	26	27	28
29	30	31				



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"Where God's Love Transforms Lives"