



ST. ANDY'S REVIEW

November 30, 2023 • Vol. 69, Issue 19

UPCOMING SERMONS

DECEMBER 3

**Jesus Rules the World
and Gathers His Church**

Revelation 5:1-14

DECEMBER 10

**The Glorious
Return of the King**

Revelation 22:12-21

DECEMBER 17

How to Slay the Dragon

Revelation 12:1-14

DECEMBER 24 (10:30AM)

**People and
Places of the Nativity**

DECEMBER 24 (6:30PM)

Make Room for Jesus

Luke 2:1-7

**DECEMBER
NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE:**

December 19, 2023

YET-TO-COME

Are you good with waiting? Or does the anticipation get the better of you? When I travel, I am always in a hurry to arrive at my destination. I get impatient with the journey. We see this same principle at work in the life of the early church. Christians who eagerly embraced the Good News of salvation in Jesus, find themselves getting impatient as tensions and persecutions grow but Jesus still has not returned. The waiting is getting to be too much, and they wonder about the future.

As we begin the season of Advent, we find ourselves in the **Yet-to-Come** section of our *Journey Through the Bible*. This is only fitting since Advent is a time of waiting, a time of anticipating the coming of Jesus. During this season we remember that Jesus came as an infant, but we also remember His promise to come again. As we explore the **Yet-to-Come** section, we will look at some key passages in the book of Revelation. This final book of the Bible records a single vision of Jesus as He rules the world, gathers His church, triumphs over Satan, and establishes the new creation.

This revelation of Jesus makes clear that God is in control and there is no question that the victory belongs to Jesus. With this assurance, we are called to wait for His return with patient endurance and as faithful witnesses to Kingdom values in a hostile world.

- Pastor Tara



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

2023 YEAR-LONG BIBLE STUDY REVIEW

This month we find ourselves completing our yearlong **Journey through the Bible** using the CASKET EMPTY curriculum. This acronym identifies the key movements of the redemptive narrative of the entire Bible, with the word CASKET representing the Old Testament and the word EMPTY representing the New Testament. CASKET EMPTY helps us to visualize the major movements of Scripture while also highlighting that at the center of God's plan of redemption is Jesus and the empty tomb. Let's review what we have learned...

C reation: The opening chapters of the Bible provide the background for God's plan of redemption. God created everything out of nothing and it was good, but humanity doubts God and sin enters, disrupting the harmony between God and creation.

A braham: Despite humanity's rebellion, God has a plan to redeem creation. Working through the family line of Abram and Sarai, God is at work accomplishing what He promised—land, descendants, nation, and a name.

S inai: In the books Exodus through Ruth, we see the fulfillment of God's promises to Abraham and Sarah, the establishment of the covenant stipulations, the priesthood, and the sacrificial system so that a holy God can live among a rebellious people.

K ings: The people reject God as their king asking for an earthly king like the nations around them. While there were some good kings, most of the kings lead the nation in rebellion and idolatry. Yet, God remains faithful to the covenant!

E xile: Ignoring the warnings of God's prophets, the people persisted in their idolatry and suffered the consequences of covenant unfaithfulness. The divided kingdom falls, and the people are carried off. Yet, God reminds them of the future He is building.

T emple: The Israelites are able to return home with the task of rebuilding both the temple and the city. The temple is a reminder of God's desire to live among them, but God also promises a new Spirit which will make His children living temples.



2023 YEAR-LONG BIBLE STUDY REVIEW

E xpectations: Roughly a 400-year season of waiting, hoping, and searching the Scriptures for how God's promises will be fulfilled. During this time God's people are interpreting world events in light of key promises recorded in the prophetic books.

M essiah: Jesus' birth marks the fulfillment of all God promised in the Old Testament. Jesus is the son of David who will establish God's everlasting Kingdom and Jesus is the seed of Abraham who will bring God's blessing to all the nations of the world.

P entecost: Focused on God's giving of the Holy Spirit to inspire and empower the disciples for the task of making disciples. God's Spirit equipped the first disciples to share the faith and the Spirit equips us to be Christ's ambassadors to a lost world.

T eaching: As new churches were established letters were written instructing the new believers in matters of doctrine and conduct, providing a framework to understand and apply the saving realities of the cross.

Y et-to-Come: God's ultimate purposes have truly begun in Jesus, but the full realization of God's eternal purposes is still to be realized. Scripture ends with a vision of Jesus' present rule and future glory when He will return and establish the new creation.

It was an ambitious goal for 2023, but we have made it to the finish line! Well done! It is my prayer this study will continue to inform our understanding of Scripture as we continue to grow in our faith as mature disciples of Jesus.

- Pastor Tara

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE BUILD DAY

The St. Andrew's team had a great time helping build beds for Sleep in Heavenly Peace on November 11! This organization builds and delivers beds, mattresses, and bedding to kids in southeast Texas in need. If you would like to volunteer independently, sign up at bit.ly/shpevent. Or stay tuned for upcoming St. Andrew's build days in the future!



December

birthdays

Dec. 6	Cache Buehrle
Dec. 6	Craig Pember
Dec. 7	Mary Beth Lowrance
Dec. 8	Daniel Dove
Dec. 8	Anne Elam
Dec. 8	Evelyn Lord
Dec. 8	Linda Sparkman
Dec. 9	Pat Caywood
Dec. 12	Michael Dove
Dec. 13	Zachary Armstrong
Dec. 16	Paul Morgan
Dec. 16	Pat Richard
Dec. 16	Cassey Wilcox
Dec. 18	Mark Steinhagen
Dec. 19	Charles Kirk
Dec. 19	Dorothy Moorefield
Dec. 24	Wendy Daigle
Dec. 25	Lisa Collins
Dec. 25	Doreen Jameson
Dec. 25	Bob Schwarzlose
Dec. 25	Barbara Warren
Dec. 26	Edith Holloway
Dec. 26	Elizabeth Petit
Dec. 28	Greta Ott
Dec. 29	Aidan Collins
Dec. 29	Levi Durham
Dec. 29	Peg Towers
Dec. 30	James Hackman
Dec. 30	Gale Jones

Church Office Closed

The office will close at
12:30PM on 12/21 and
12/28, and will be closed
all day on 12/25 and 01/01.
Merry Christmas!

Good Tidings of Comfort and Joy

The Golden Triangle Handbell Ensemble will be ringing in the holiday season on December 10, 2023 at 7:00PM.

Join us for the winter concert in the St. Andrew's Sanctuary.

No Sunday School or Youth Group

on Christmas Eve (12/24)
and New Year's Eve (12/31)



ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

Let every heart prepare Him room! Pick up Advent devotionals from the sanctuary tables on December 3, the first Sunday of Advent. We have options for children, youth, and adults, and even something for the entire family to study together.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Gale Jones Reception 11:45AM Choir Rehearsal 12:00PM New Member Class 3:00PM Boy Scouts 5:00PM Youth Group	4 10:00AM Monday Group 5:30PM SAS 4:30PM LHA Christmas Party 6:30PM C.E. Team	5 10:00AM PW Coordinating 10:00AM Staff Meeting 5:15PM SAS 5:30PM Fellowship Team 6:00PM Golden Triangle Handbells 6:30PM Tuesday Group	6 8:15AM Soup Kitchen 9:30AM Day School Chapel 5:30PM Handbells 6:30PM Mission & Evangelism	7 8:30AM MOW Cooks 10:00AM MOW Delivers 6:00PM Golden Triangle Handbells	8 	9 8:30AM SETX Food Bank
10 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Christmas Luncheon 12:15PM Choir Rehearsal 3:00PM Boy Scouts 7:00PM Golden Triangle Concert	11 10:00AM Monday Group 5:30PM SAS 6:30PM LHA	12 5:15PM SAS 5:30PM Finance/Property Mtg 6:30PM Tuesday Group	13 9:30AM Day School Chapel 6:30PM Worship Team	14 8:30AM MOW Cooks 9:00AM Day School Practice 10:00AM MOW Delivers	15 	16
17 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:45AM Choir Rehearsal 12:00PM Deacons' Meeting 3:00PM Boy Scouts 3:00PM Christmas Rehearsal 5:00PM Youth Group 5:30PM Choir Party	18 10:00AM Monday Group 5:30PM SAS 6:30PM LHA	19 5:15PM SAS 6:30PM Tuesday Group 6:30PM Session Meeting	20 9:30AM Day School Chapel 5:30PM Board of Trustees	21 OFFICE CLOSES AT 12:30PM 8:30AM MOW Cooks 10:00AM MOW Delivers	22 	23 6:00PM Choir Dress Rehearsal
24 CHRISTMAS EVE 10:30AM Worship 6:30PM Candlelight Service	25 CHRISTMAS Office Closed	26 	27 	28 OFFICE CLOSES AT 12:30PM 8:30AM MOW Cooks 10:00AM MOW Delivers	29 	30
31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 10:30AM Worship	<div> <div>KEY</div> <div> PW = Presbyterian Women SK @ SOP = Soup Kitchen at Some Other Place LHA = La Hacienda Alumni MOW = Meals On Wheels </div> </div>					

Christmas Luncheon

following worship on December 10

Join us for chicken enchilada soup, tamales, chips and dips, and cookie decorating! After lunch, we will stuff stockings and make cards for Girls' Haven.



ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

On November 5, we expressed our gratitude for the life and witness of the saints of St. Andrew's who have passed away this year.



SEAFARER KITS

On November 7, the Presbyterian Women assembled care packages for seafarers arriving in the Port of Beaumont over the holidays.



Christmas Joy Offering: Follow Christ's Lead This Advent Season

Every year, society expects us to celebrate the holiday season even bigger and better than years before. This year, coming together to reclaim Advent and Christmas can be both humbling and fulfilling. As we excitedly await the birth of Christ, it's important to remember the reason for the season: the newborn Servant of all, the perfect gift.

With Christ at the center this holiday season, we can follow in His example of servant leadership by serving our brothers and sisters in faith. **Through the Christmas Joy Offering, collected on December 17, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope.**

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering help the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions provide critical financial assistance to eligible church workers and retired pastors and their families in the PCUSA.

The Christmas Joy Offering also supports the education and development of our future leaders at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. These schools are dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for students built on a foundation of Christian values.

By supporting the Christmas Joy Offering, you share in the hope of Christ and celebrate His leadership by providing support to our church workers, young people, and their families. To learn more or to give online, visit presbyterianmission.org/give/christmasjoy.



In Our Prayers

In the Congregation

Greta Ott, Pat Caywood, Bob Fisher, Shelley and Lee Plunkett, Barbara and Dalton Abel, Kay Long

Friends and Family

Lance LaDuke, Exxandy Espinosa, David Cobble, Karen Thompson Butler, Madeline Johnson, Val Rayzor, Mary Kennedy, Mickey Shuffield, Thomas Fisher, Jack Dillard, Erin Lenhart, Jerry Linn, Janie Niederstadt Verderame, Rachel Lawrence, Esmee Foster

2024 God's Creation Calendars

God's Creation Calendars are available for purchase! They cost **\$10 each**, and you can order and pick them up from the Church Office. The calendars feature beautiful color photographs and Bible verses and make great Christmas gifts for friends and family. **Only 11 calendars remain!**

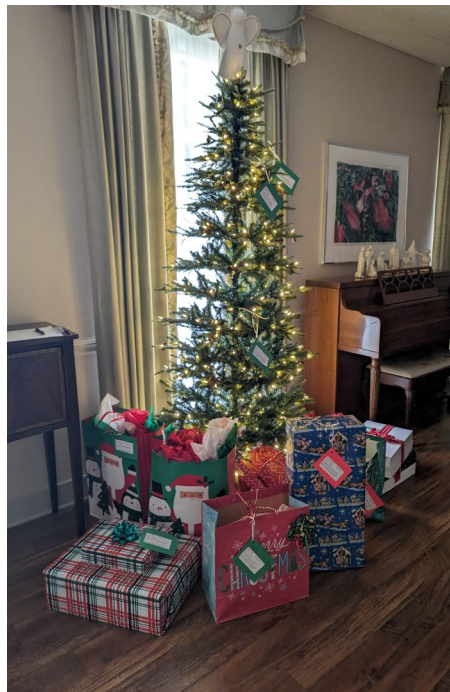


Stock the Pantry for SOP

October was St. Andrew's month to stock the pantry at Some Other Place. Your donations of shelf-stable goods helped feed homeless individuals, homebound seniors, and others who don't have access to regular meals. At the beginning of November, St. Andrew's was able to give the following items to SOP. Thank you for your generosity!

31 cans of veggies or beans	12 packs of non-fat dry milk
29 jars of peanut butter	7 cans of fruit
25 boxes of mac and cheese	5 boxes of popcorn
22 boxes of pancake mix	5 packs of potatoes
18 boxes of hot cereal	5 packs of cocoa
16 cans of soup or meat	4 cans of milk
14 bags or boxes of rice	4 bags of pasta
13 bottles of syrup	3 bottles of condiments

CHRISTMAS GIVING TREE



St. Andrew's is sponsoring a Christmas Giving Tree for Some Other Place, which coordinates this program to benefit local children who otherwise might not have much of a Christmas. You can pick up a tag from the Christmas tree in the parlor. Tags specify the age of the child and the gift that they requested. Once you have purchased the requested gift, wrap and **return it by December 10.** (Please attach the tag to the gift.) Don't miss this fun opportunity to be a blessing to our community!

ADVENT DECORATING

November 19



The St. Andrew's family ushered in the Advent season on November 19 by decorating the sanctuary (including the Chrismon tree) and the outdoors. We had a great time and enjoyed some pizza, cookies, and drinks afterwards!



Chancel Flowers

Fresh flowers can be given for the chancel in worship on Sunday mornings in memory or honor of loved ones. A standard arrangement is \$80. If you would like to sponsor the chancel flowers, email the church office or use the flower calendar outside the main office. The only 2023 date left is December 24, Christmas Eve.



2023 Poinsettia Order Form

Poinsettias are a beautiful way to honor or remember loved ones this Christmas. The flowers will be available for you to take home after the Christmas Eve evening service, when the dedications will be printed in the bulletin. Plants are \$15.00 each. Orders and payments are due by Thursday, December 7, 2023.

IN HONOR OF

IN MEMORY OF

BY

If you would like to order Christmas poinsettias, cut out this form and return it to the Church Office. You can also visit <https://saintandy.org/events-media/documents> to fill out an order form online. Remember that the deadline (December 7) is fast approaching!

Meet Mike and Barbara Warren

We are delighted that Mike and Barbara Warren officially joined the St. Andrew's family on Sunday, October 22! Many of you already know the Warrens, but we asked them a few questions to get to know them better. Make sure to stop by and introduce (or re-introduce) yourself on Sunday.

Where are you from?

We have lived in Beaumont since 1966. We joined St. Andrew's that year and were members for 32 years. We came to Beaumont from Austin. Mike grew up in Fort Worth and Barb grew up in Houston.



What do you do for a living, and what do you love about it?

Mike is a retired biology professor. Barb's professional life has included medical technology, the corporate world for Helena Laboratories, public relations for Nutrition and Services for Seniors, and her own events planning business. Our community efforts have been devoted to Lamar University, Family Services, the Women's and Children's Shelter, and the Beaumont Botanical Gardens.

What's an interesting fact about yourself that not many people know?

Mike loves to connect to a large audience. Barb started life on a little farm in East Texas.

What are some of your favorite Bible verses?

1 Corinthians 13; Psalm 23; and Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.

MEET JOYCE STILLWELL

Meet Joyce Stillwell, a charismatic administrative assistant with a passion to help others! She will be filling in for Rachel while she is out on maternity leave. Make sure to stop by, say hello, and introduce yourself to Joyce when you're at the office. Here's a little bit to help you get to know her:

With 20+ years of experience in the administrative industry, I have developed a strong set of skills and a proven track record of success. Since moving to Texas in 2016, I have been blessed to be the chief family manager of our household. I am a proud wife of a U.S. Marine veteran, a mother of four wonderful children and a grandmother (a.k.a Mimzy) to three highly energetic grandchildren. When I'm not working, I enjoy spending time with my family, outdoor activities, watching my daughter dance and seeing my grandchildren grow and experience life. I also take pleasure in visiting new places and trying new cuisine. I am truly delighted to be a part of Saint Andrew's and providing support to ensure the smooth functioning of the organization while Rachel is away.



2024 Confirmation Class

Confirmation is a time for students to explore their faith and dig deeper into the Bible, church history, and Presbyterian traditions, while also growing in community with one another. When a baby is baptized in a Presbyterian Church, the parents and the whole church make vows to lovingly raise that child in the Christian faith. When a child reaches adolescence, they are provided with a period of study and intentional reflection. Confirmation is a purposeful time in which we encourage students to take ownership of their faith in hopes that they might claim Christ as their own.

The 2024 Confirmation Class will have its first meeting on Sunday, January 7 in the Youth Center. Students will meet monthly with Pastor Tara according to the following class schedule: **January 7, February 11, March 24, April 21, and May 5.** All classes are required and will meet 12:00PM-5:00PM. Pray for our students as they embark on this journey of faith exploration and discipleship!

Estimate of Giving Cards

If you haven't turned in your Estimate of Giving card for 2024, it isn't too late. If you need a blank card, they are available in the Church Office. Thank you for your support!

Ordination and Installation

The new deacons, elders, and officers of St. Andrew's will be ordained and installed during worship on Sunday, January 7. We are grateful for these servants who lead by example and are willing to do so much for our church family and our community.

2024 St. Andrew's Handbells

If you enjoy music and fellowship (or if you want to be in a choir but don't want to sing!), consider joining the St. Andrew's Handbell Choir in 2024. Led by Martha Giarratano, rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 5:30PM-6:30PM. The bell choir blesses the congregation in worship several times a year, especially in the Lenten and Advent seasons. Musical experience is not a requirement, but it is certainly a plus. If you have questions or would like to learn more, contact Martha or contact the Church Office.

Sunday School Sneak Peek

After our year-long **Journey through the Bible**, Sunday school classes and small groups will be starting some exciting new studies in January! Stay tuned for details on what other groups will be studying.

- **Fellowship Class**, for men and women of all ages, meets in Room 3 and will be studying *John Calvin: Sovereign Hope* by Carolyn Nystrom.
- **Pew Sisters Class**, for women of all ages, meets in Room 2 and will be studying *Traveling Light* by Max Lucado.
- The **Youth Group**, for youth grades 6-12, meets in the Youth Center at 5:00PM on Sundays. They will be studying *Forward Motion*, which explores what it means to follow Christ and to walk with Him daily.

Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve, 10:30AM

Witness the story of Christ's birth in Scripture and song, with a special time for children.

Featuring "People and Places of the Nativity," by Rob Toornstra

CHRISTMAS EVE 6:30PM CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

Join us as we celebrate Christ's birth with a special time for children featuring the book *Mortimer's Christmas Manger*; choir, orchestra, and organ; and a message from Luke 2:1-7.



YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 17, 2023

5:00PM-7:00PM

in the Youth Center

Wear a Christmas sweater
and join us for a nacho bar,
gift exchange, and games!



MOW Volunteer Needed!

The St. Andrew's Meals on Wheels program delivers hot, nutritious meals to homebound folks in Beaumont who aren't able to cook or shop for themselves. **Right now, the MOW team is in need of a driver to deliver a route on the fifth Thursday.** (This doesn't happen every month.) Delivering only takes about an hour. If you are willing and able to volunteer, contact Susan Reese or the Church Office.



ST. ANDREW'S

Presbyterian Church

Experience the love of Jesus and the joy of community

1350 N. 23rd Street
Beaumont, TX 77706



PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

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Patricia Williamson <i>Accompanist</i>	patricia@saintandy.org
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CONNECT WITH US

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OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Thursday
8:30AM-4:30PM

