



ST. ANDY'S REVIEW

December 2024 • Vol. 70, Issue 12

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS!

It's the most wonderful time of the year, or so the song goes. Yet, we have to admit that it doesn't always feel that way. We can all rattle off a list of why we feel a twinge of stress or sadness mixed with happiness or excitement when the carols start playing in every public setting. Hectic schedules, rampant materialism, and reminders of personal wounds are just a few reasons.

Whether you are the person who is ready to relax and savor the season because you did all your shopping and preparations months ago or the person who dreads the busyness, responsibilities, or loneliness that steal your joy this time of year, the Christmas season offers a unique opportunity to experience God's love and grace in the midst of real life. Christmas can still truly give us a taste of the most wonderful time of world history. Jesus, the Messiah, our Savior, came as the light into the darkness and stress and pain of the world – our world. The world then, just like our world now, including our lives, needs the light of Christ to illuminate, clarify, guide, and heal. Jesus' coming brings that ultimate light and the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love. Those are the true gifts of Christmas and worth celebrating.

So, join us for our Advent series, "The Gifts of Christmas," as we celebrate how Jesus's birth changed everything and brings us hope, peace, joy, and love even today!

Then, on Christmas Eve, join us as we prepare our hearts to celebrate the coming of Jesus, the ultimate gift!

-Pastor Tara



THE SEASON OF ADVENT

UPCOMING SERMONS

DECEMBER 1
THE GIFT OF HOPE
Luke 21:25-36

DECEMBER 8
THE GIFT OF PEACE
Luke 3:1-18

DECEMBER 15
THE GIFT OF JOY
Isaiah 35:1-10

DECEMBER 22
THE GIFT OF LOVE
Luke 1:39-55

DECEMBER 24 (6:30PM)
THE GIFT OF JESUS
Luke 2:10-11

DECEMBER 29
LESSONS & CAROLS

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE:

Please call or email the office with newsletter submissions on or before **December 19, 2024.**

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 Mary Beach
- Dec. 12 Michael Dove
- Dec. 13 Zachary Armstrong
- Dec. 16 Pat Richard
- Dec. 18 John Quigley
- Dec. 19 Charles Kirk
- Dec. 19 Dorothy Moorefield
- 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. 27 Jesse Stiles
- Dec. 28 Greta Ott
- Dec. 29 Aidan Collins
- Dec. 29 Levi Durham
- Dec. 29 Peg Towers
- Dec. 30 Gale Jones

THE CHURCH OFFICE
WILL CLOSE AT
12:30PM ON
DEC 24 & DEC 31
THE OFFICE WILL BE
CLOSED
ALL DAY ON
DEC 25 AND JAN 1.

ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

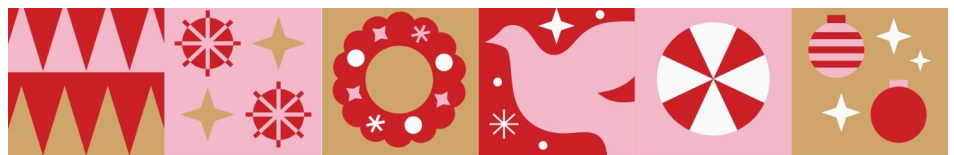
On November 3, the community of St. Andrew's gathered to honor and remember the lives and contributions of the saints who have passed away over the past year. This day of remembrance serves as a poignant reminder of the impact these individuals had on the lives of those around them and on the community as a whole. Through their acts of kindness, faith, and service, they left an indelible mark on St. Andrew's, inspiring others to continue their legacy. The day was filled with shared memories, prayers, and a deep sense of gratitude for the enduring spirit and witness of these beloved members. As we reflect on their lives, we are encouraged to carry forward their values and love, ensuring their memory remains vibrant within the heart of the community.



First Friday Men's Breakfast

**Next meeting: December 6
in the Parlor.**

Men, join us on the first Friday of every month for food, fellowship, and prayer!



BOOK CLUB

DEC 5 • 1:00 • PARLOR

We will be discussing November's family fiction reads.



THEME TO DISCUSS AT JANUARY MEETING IS CHRISTMAS CHEER.

Christmas Joy Offering: Prepare the Way



The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides 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 of color at Presbyterian-related schools dedicated to creating opportunities and environments for students built on a foundation of Christian values.

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 Sunday, December 22, we are able to support those in our community and give them the gift of hope.**

ADVENT STUDIES



Discovery Class, for adults, meets in the library at 9:15am and will revisit various sections of the *Believe* curriculum.

Pew Sisters, for adult women, meets in Room 2 at 9:15am and will study *The Women of Christmas* by Liz Curtis Higgs.

Fellowship Class, for adults, meets in Room 3 at 9:15am and will study *An Unlikely Advent* by Rachel Billups.

Children's Sunday School, for Pre-K through 5th grade, meets in Journey Room 304 at 9:15am and will study various lessons from the *We Believe Workshop: The Angels Announce God's Message*.

Youth Group, for grades 6-12, meets in the Youth Center at 5:00pm and will study *Tis the Season*.

In Our Prayers

In the Congregation

Susanne Nichols
Howard Caywood
Greta Ott
Bobbie Wied
Evelyn Lord
Linda Sparkman
Beth Ann Mistrot
Bob Fisher
Barbara and Dalton Abel
Kay Long

Friends and Family

Geneva Broussard
Ellen Wiemers
Jerry Linn
Madeline Johnson
David Cobble
Erika Russell
Karen Thompson Butler
Mary Kennedy
Thomas Fisher
Jack Dillard
Erin Lenhart
Janie Niederstadt Verderame



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.

YOUTH BOWLING

The youth group had an exciting time at the bowling alley, where laughter and friendly competition filled the air. As the neon lights flickered above the lanes, they cheered each other on, celebrating strikes and spares with high-fives and playful banter. Even the occasional gutter ball couldn't dampen their spirits, as they encouraged one another and shared tips to improve their game. Snacks and soda breaks added to the camaraderie, creating an atmosphere of joy and connection. By the end of the evening, the group left with memories of shared victories and the warmth of friendship, eager to plan their next outing.



SEAFARER'S CENTER CHRISTMAS PACKAGES

On November 7, the Presbyterian Women came together with a spirit of generosity and compassion to assemble care packages for seafarers arriving at the Port of Beaumont during the holiday season. Recognizing the unique challenges and isolation faced by these workers who spend long months away from home, the group aimed to bring warmth and cheer to their lives. The care packages, filled with essential items and personal care products, serve as a heartfelt gesture of appreciation and support. This initiative not only highlights the community's commitment to caring for those in need but also fosters a sense of global connection and kindness, reminding seafarers that they are valued and remembered, even amidst their demanding journeys. A big thank you to all who donated time, money, and gifts to the 2024 St Andrew's Mission project for Beaumont Seafarers Christmas kits. Because of your generous donations, St. Andrew's was able to provide 40 care packages.





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:45AM Choir Rehearsal 2:00PM Worship Staff Mtg 3:00PM Boy Scouts	2 5:00PM Day School Board 5:30PM Strings After School 6:00PM Golden Triangle Square Dancers	3 10:00AM PW Coordinating 11:00AM Staff Meeting 5:30PM Fellowship 5:30PM Strings After School 6:30PM Christian Ed	4 8:15AM SK @ SOP 9:30AM Day School Chapel 4:00PM AA Group 5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal 6:30PM Mission & Evangelism	5 8:30AM MOW Cooks 10:00AM MOW Delivers 1:00PM Book Club 6:00PM GTHE Rehearsal	6 7:00AM Men's Breakfast	7
8 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:45AM Choir Rehearsal 3:00PM Boy Scouts 5:00PM Youth Group	9 5:30PM Strings After School 6:00PM Golden Triangle Square Dancers	10 5:30PM Strings After School 5:30PM Finance and Property 6:30PM Session Meeting 6:00PM GTHE Rehearsal	11 9:30AM Day School Chapel 4:00PM AA Group 5:30PM Handbell Rehearsal 6:30PM Worship Team	12 8:30AM MOW Cooks 10:00AM MOW Delivers 6:00PM Handbell Rehearsal	13	14 8:30AM SETX Food Bank
15 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:30AM Christmas Lunch 12:00PM Choir Rehearsal 12:00PM Deacons' Meeting 3:00PM Boy Scouts 5:00PM Youth Party 7:00PM GTHE Concert	16 5:30PM Strings After School 6:00PM Golden Triangle Square Dancers	17 5:30PM Strings After School	18 9:30AM Day School Chapel 5:30PM AA Group 5:30PM Board of Trustees	19 8:30AM MOW Cooks 10:00AM MOW Delivers	20	21
22 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:45AM Choir Rehearsal 3:00PM Boy Scouts	23 6:00PM Golden Triangle Square Dancers	24 OFFICE CLOSES at 12:30PM	25 OFFICE CLOSED Merry Christmas!	26 8:30AM MOW Cooks 10:00AM MOW Delivers	27	28
29 9:15AM Sunday School 10:30AM Worship 11:45AM Choir Rehearsal 3:00PM Boy Scouts	30 6:00PM Golden Triangle Square Dancers	31 OFFICE CLOSES at 12:30PM			29	30

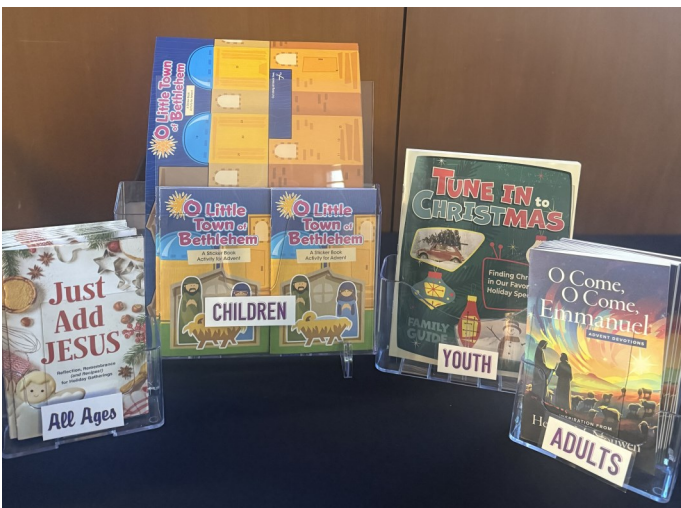
KEY
MOW = Meals On Wheels
PW = Presbyterian Women
SK @ SOP = Soup Kitchen at Some Other Place
GTHE = Golden Triangle Handbells Ensemble

REMINDER: ESTIMATE OF GIVING

If you haven't turned in your Estimate of Giving card for 2025, there is still time. If you need a blank card, they are available in the Church Office. Thank you for your support!



As we approach the holiday season, we want to remind you that Pastor Tara will never request money or gift cards via text or email. If you receive any suspicious messages of this nature, you can report this activity at [ReportFraud.ftc.gov](https://www.reportfraud.ftc.gov).

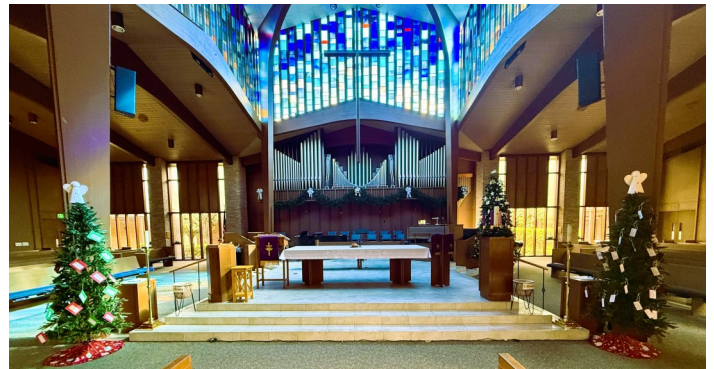


REMINDER: ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

As the Advent season approaches, it's a wonderful time to reflect and prepare for the joyous celebration of Christmas. Whether you're looking for engaging materials for children, insightful reflections for youth, or profound readings for adults, there's something available for everyone. Additionally, there are devotionals designed for family study, providing a meaningful opportunity to grow together in faith.

ST. ANDREW'S ANGEL TREES

St. Andrew's is excited to participate in spreading holiday cheer by sponsoring gifts for children and residents in need this Christmas season. Partnering with Some Other Place, this program aims to ensure that local children, who might otherwise have little to celebrate, experience the joy of receiving a special gift. Additionally, gifts will benefit the residents of Harmony House. To join in this heartwarming initiative, simply pick up a tag from one of the Angel Trees located in the sanctuary. Each tag specifies a gift request. **After purchasing the gift, please wrap it and return it with the tag attached by December 8.** This is a wonderful opportunity to bring smiles to others and make a meaningful impact in our community this holiday season.



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.

YEAR-END STATEMENTS

The church will mail final contribution statements for 2024 by the end of January.

Be on the lookout!

2024 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 Sunday, December 8, 2024.

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 8) is fast approaching!

IRA Contributions



As we come to the end of another year, we want to remind you of a potential tax savings if you are required to take an RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) from your IRA. If you have your financial advisor send your distribution directly to the charity you desire to give to (church, Boy Scouts, Food Bank, etc.) this will bypass you and you do not have to pay taxes on those distributions. You can contribute to more than one charity as long as you do not receive the funds yourself. Any 503(c) corporation is legal. Your financial advisor can help you accomplish this.

Ordination and Installation

The new deacons, elders, and officers of St. Andrew's will be ordained and installed during worship on Sunday, January 5. We are grateful for these servants who lead by example and are willing to do so much for our church family and our community.

2025 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 2025. 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.





The day school and their families gathered for a heartwarming Thanksgiving feast, creating an atmosphere filled with laughter, gratitude, and togetherness. As students and parents arrived, they were greeted by tables adorned with autumn-themed decorations and the enticing aroma of traditional holiday dishes. The event provided an opportunity for everyone to share stories and express gratitude for the blessings in their lives. Children proudly showcased their handmade crafts and participated in festive activities, while adults engaged in lively conversations and formed new friendships. The Thanksgiving feast not only celebrated the spirit of the holiday but also strengthened the sense of community among the school and families, leaving everyone with cherished memories and full hearts. Thanks to our church volunteers who helped make it a memorable day.





Christmas Luncheon

*following worship
on December 15,
2024*

*Join us for chicken enchilada soup,
tamales, chips and dips, and
fellowship!*

*For dessert, we will decorate
cookies.*



DECEMBER 15

**Join us in spreading
warmth and compassion
this holiday season by
assembling winter kindness
kits for the homeless after
our Christmas Luncheon.**



Youth Christmas Party

**December 15
5-7pm**

in the Youth Center

**Join us for food, games,
and a gift exchange
(bring gift under \$10)**

**Don't forget to wear a
festive outfit!**



GOLDEN TRIANGLE HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

Winter Concert

**"Silver bells, silver bells, it's
Christmas time in the city...." Our
bells are not silver, but the Golden
Triangle Handbell Ensemble would
like to invite you to our Christmas
concert.**

**December 15, 2024
at 7:00PM**

ADVENT DECORATING

The St. Andrew's family's celebration to usher in the Advent season on November 24 was a heartwarming event that brought the community together in festive spirit. As members gathered to decorate the sanctuary and the outdoors, the air was filled with joy and anticipation, marking the beginning of a cherished season. Some of our neighbors even paused from their basketball game to assist! After the creative work was done, everyone indulged in a delightful spread of pizza, cookies, drinks, and fellowship. It was a perfect way to kick off the Advent season, blending the joy of preparation with the warmth of community celebration.



ADVENT DECORATING





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

Tara R. Thompson <i>Pastor</i>	tara@saintandy.org
Thomas Furlow <i>Music Director</i>	thomas@saintandy.org
Rachel Stiles <i>Organist</i>	rachel@saintandy.org
Joyce Stillwell <i>Admin Assistant</i>	joyce@saintandy.org
Katrina Strong <i>Custodian</i>	church@saintandy.org
Patricia Williamson <i>Accompanist</i>	patricia@saintandy.org
Gloria Pierce <i>Day School Director</i>	dayschool@saintandy.org

CONNECT WITH US

CONTACT
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church@saintandy.org

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

 @saintandy.org
 @saintandybmt
 @saintandybmt

Christmas Eve 6:30PM Candlelight Service

Join us as we celebrate Christ's birth with a special story time for children, choir, orchestra, and organ; and a message from Luke 2:10-11.

