

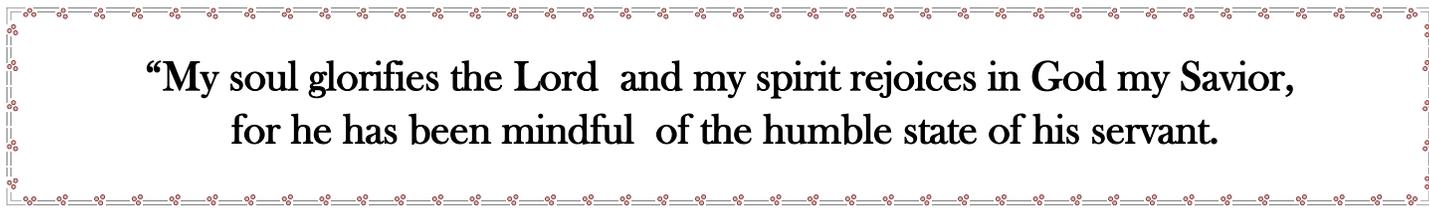


Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy . . . .

For the Third Sunday of Advent the theme is the JOY that the birth of the Savior brings to us. Joy is not happiness. It is deeper, not subject to the winds of change and the shift in circumstances. It is the settled conviction of the life and heart that rises from certainty that all I need for my life is assured to me. My horizon is bright with certain promise and the deepest longings of my heart are satisfied.

It does not mean that we must ignore the brokenness of the present world or pretend that the world and the devil do not exist. It means we are certain of the outcome and that the Savior of the world has made me his own. I will never be separated from him.

The song of Mary reflects this:



“My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

She speaks of the promises of God that bring God to us and us to God. Joy comes from faith and no other way. Today in worship allow your faith to be informed, to grow and to blossom into great joy that Christ is born for you.

Bill Douglas, Pastor

### **WELCOME VISITORS**

We are glad to have you as our guest!

As we seek to bring glory to our Father together, we welcome you to join any or all of the events and ministry activities at St. Andrews.

⇒ We invite you to worship God with us, to find us as a place for *encouragement* and *fellowship*, and to *become a part of this church*.

⇒ We invite you to tell us who you are and let us get to know you, as you get to know and become more familiar with us.

God has moved you to come to worship him.

We are honored that you are here.

**December 16, 2018**

*Third Sunday of Advent*

*Preaching: Bill Douglas*

*Leading in Worship: Duncan Cantrell*

**Songs of Ascent**

*Hymn #211*

**God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen**

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,  
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

*Refrain:*

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.

2 From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;  
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:  
how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name. (*Refrain*)

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;  
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,  
to free all those who trust in him  
from Satan's pow'r and might." (*Refrain*)

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
and left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind:  
and went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find. (*Refrain*)

*Hymn #193*

**Let All Mortal Flesh**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;  
Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood.  
He will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of Light descendeth from the realms of endless day,  
that the pow'rs of hell may vanish, as the darkness clears away.

At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye,  
veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry:  
"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

*Hymn #194*

**O Come O Come Emmanuel**

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.

*Refrain:*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe. (*Refrain*)

O come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave. (*Refrain*)

O come, thou Day-spring from on high and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight (*Refrain*)

O come, thou Key of David, come and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery. (*Refrain*)

**Call to Worship**

Come let us sing to the Lord; let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him  
with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, And to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now, And will be forever. Amen.

*Hymn #208*

**Come All Ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him, born the King of angels;

*Refrain:*

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light; lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten, not created; (*Refrain*)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
glory to God in the highest; (*Refrain*)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (*Refrain*)

The Lord be with you

**And also with you.**

**Prayers of Invocation** From the *Venite* of Hugh Latimer

HONOUR and praise be given to you, O LORD God Almighty, most dear Father of heaven, for all your mercies and loving-kindness showed to us, in that it has pleased you from your own gracious goodness to freely elect and choose us to salvation before the beginning of the world.

We offer in the same way continual thanks to you for creating us after your own image; for redeeming us with the precious blood of your dear Son, when we were utterly lost; for sanctifying us with your Holy Spirit in the revelation and knowledge of your holy word; for helping us in all our needs and necessities; for saving us from all dangers of body and soul; for comforting us so fatherly in all our tribulations and persecutions; for sparing us so long, and giving us so large a time of repentance.

O LORD, strengthen our faith; kindle it more in fervent love towards you, and our neighbors, for your sake. May we not, most dear Father, receive your word any more in vain; but grant us always the assistance of grace and Holy Spirit, that in heart, word, and deed, we may magnify and do worship to your Name.

Let your mighty hand and outstretched arm, O LORD, be still our defense. We pray in the Name above all names. Amen

*Hymn # 214*

**Angels We Have Heard on High**

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains.

*Refrain:*

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song? (*Refrain*)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King. (*Refrain*)

**Prayers Of Confession** from Prayers of John Knox

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who by your eternal providence dispose kingdoms as seems best to your wisdom: We acknowledge and confess your judgments to be righteous and all your ways are just. Forgive us for and take from us our ingratitude. We confess that we have neglected and scorned your Word, and despised your mercies; we have transgressed your laws. We have dealt deceitfully with our neighbor; we have not turned away from oppression and violence; charity has not appeared among us, as our profession requires. Turn to us in mercy and not in judgment.

O Lord, behold your own mercy and goodness, that you may purge and remove the burden of our most horrible offenses. Let your love overcome the severity of your judgments, even as it did in giving to the world your only Son, Jesus, when all mankind was lost, and no obedience was left in Adam or in his seed. Regenerate our hearts, O Lord, by the strength of the Holy Spirit. Convert thou us, and we shall be converted. Work thou in us unfeigned repentance, and move thou our hearts to obey thy holy laws. Let us not faint under the cross of our Savior, but assist us with the Holy Spirit, even to the end. Amen.

## Promise of Pardoning Grace – from Hebrews 2

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

## Confession of Faith (Heidelberg Catechism)

33. Q. Why is He called God's only begotten Son, since we also are children of God?

**A. Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God. We, however, are children of God by adoption, through grace, for Christ's sake.**

34. Q. Why do you call Him our Lord?

**A. Because He has ransomed us, body and soul, from all our sins, not with silver or gold but with His precious blood, and has freed us from all the power of the devil to make us His own possession.**

35. Q. What do you confess when you say: He was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary?

**A. The eternal Son of God, who is and remains true and eternal God, took upon Himself true human nature from the flesh and blood of the virgin Mary, through the working of the Holy Spirit. Thus He is also the true seed of David, and like His brothers in every respect, yet without sin.**

**Third Advent Candle—** Glenn and Susan Preston, Gabriel and Emma

**Missions Minute—** Missions Ministry Team, Chris Schuster

**Hymn #218**

**Angels From the Realms of Glory**

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth;

*Refrain:*

Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with man is now residing, yonder shines the infant Light: *(Refrain)*

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star: *(Refrain)*

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear; *(Refrain)*

**Offering**

*(At this time, the Pre K4 and Kindergarten children are invited to meet their  
leaders at the back of the sanctuary for Children's Church.)*

## Scripture Lesson John 6:1-15 & 51-58

After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. 2 And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. 3 Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. 5 Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" 6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. 7 Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." 8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, 9 "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" 10 Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. 11 Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. 12 And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." 13 So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. 14 When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" 15 Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh." 52 The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" 53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. 57 As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever feeds on me, he also will live because of me. 58 This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like the bread the fathers ate, and died. Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever."

## **John 6:1-15 & 51-58**

Feeding the multitude: Complete salvation for the whole person.

**Definition:** A miracle is an event brought about by the power of God that is a temporary exception to the ordinary course of nature (as it presently is), for the purpose of showing that God has acted in history. (verifiable by eye witnesses)

*Richard Purtill*

The way Jesus reveals himself through the miracles in John:

Jesus makes an appearance at a public event or moment.

Jesus seizes the symbols associated with that event

Jesus provides in abundance something the event promises.

There is failure to grasp the claims and truth about Jesus.

“I am the bread of life . . .” The daily provision of God for this present life.

Daily truth to feed our souls.

Daily grace to sustain us in our life calling.

Daily forgiveness for our restless, sinful hearts.

Daily power from the Spirit to breathe life into our mortal bodies.

“Whoever feeds on this bread will live forever” The only hope for the life to come.

Our great Passover who gives his own body to ransom us from debt.

Our Curse Remover who became a curse in our place to remove our guilt.

Our perfect Priest who loses none that the Father has given him.

Following Jesus is an all consuming, unqualified intimacy with him.

**Sermon**

**Benediction**

**Nunc Dimittis**

*Hymn #218*

**Angels From the Realms of Glory**

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son;  
evermore your voices raising to th'eternal Three in One: (*Refrain*)

*Refrain:*

Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the new-born King.

# A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Our faithful brother, Kim O'Neil, passed away on Thursday, December 13. We, his church family, both grieve our loss and rejoice in his gain. We bear witness that he fought the good fight and know that he is safely home.

## End of the Year Giving

If you would like to make a donation to St. Andrews that will be reflected on your 2018 giving statement, please have it to the office by Sunday, **December 30th**.

## Christmas Eve Service

Please join us for our annual  
**Christmas Eve Service**  
on **Monday, December 24rd**, at **5:30pm**.  
There will be childcare provided for children up to 3.

## YOUTH

Please join us this Sunday from  
**5:30pm-7:30pm**  
for the **Youth Christmas Party**.  
Please bring a gift if you want to participate in the  
*Chinese Christmas game*  
**(\$5 gift limit)**.

## Missions Conference

Save the Date!  
This years Missions Conference  
will be held  
**January 25-27th**.  
*More information to follow.*

## St. Andrews Hymns CDs

Are available for purchase.  
**They are already wrapped for you!**  
Safely Home (2012) - \$5.00  
Sweet Comforter (2014) - \$10.00  
Purchase in church office!

## Holiday Office Hours

The church office will be closed  
**Monday, December 23rd-Tuesday, December 24th.**  
AND  
**Monday, December 31st- Tuesday, January 1st.**  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# *Poinsettia 2018*

## *“In Memorial or Honor Of”*

David & Sarah Zevac	<i>David R. Zevac</i>
Harry & Lydia Westcott	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Harry Archer Westcott Mr. &amp; Mrs. Clayton Sawyer, Sr.</i>
Ashley & Ryan Foster	<i>Dennis Whitford</i>
Susan & Jim Jackson	<i>Susannah Joy Jackson</i>
Marie & Larry King	<i>Mrs. Lillian Hamilton Mr. &amp; Mrs. Dimon King</i>
Barb & Bill Brouwer	<i>Peter Louters Albert Brouwer</i>
Cheryl & David Smith	<i>Alice Murawski (Honor Of) Melford Murawski Charles &amp; Nancy Smith</i>
Caitlin & Mathes Ballard	<i>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Vernon Dillard</i>
Brooke & Bill Douglas	<i>William C. Douglas SR. Anne McMillan Douglas Paul Markey Riherd</i>



# Monthly Calendar at St. Andrews

## DECEMBER

**16, Sun—** Third Sunday of Advent-*No Sunday School (10:30a)*  
Youth Group Christmas Party (5:30p)

**17, Mon—** Moms in Prayer (9:00a)

---

**23, Sun—** Fourth Sunday of Advent- *No Sunday School (10:30a)*  
No Youth Group

**24, Mon—** **Christmas Eve Service (5:30p)**  
*Office Closed*

**25, Tues—** **MERRY CHRISTMAS!**  
*Office Closed*

---

**30, Sun—** *No Sunday School (10:30a)*  
No Youth Group

**31, Mon—** New Years Eve!  
*Office Closed*

**1, Tues—** Happy New Year!  
*Office Closed*

If you have questions regarding any event, please contact the church office.

**706-327-7750**

# Calendar of the Month

Ushers: Brad Brooks, Sydney Brasseur, Warner Kennon Jr., Bill Buck  
Deacons: Allen Whitley & DR McNew

## **Greeters:**

**December 16:** Billy & Janet Whitley  
**December 23:** Katie VanAaslt & Annie Simpson  
**December 30:** Jim & Paula Anderson

## **Children's Church:**

**December 16:** David and Cheryl Smith and Blake Schoonover  
**December 23:** Bess Kendrick-Holmes, Jennifer Stowe and Maggie Foster  
**December 30:** Brett and Jackie Horne and Jack Phillips

## **Nursery Volunteers:**

**December 16:** Maggie Childers  
**December 23:** Heather O'Shields  
**December 30:** Amy Jaeger

## **COVENANT FAMILY NEEDS**

- **Expectant Mothers** — Molly Parker
- **Foster Care Families** — Matt & Katherine Maxey
- **Families Adopting** — Mathes & Caitlin Ballard
- **St. Andrews Missionaries** — Bethany Christian Services (Columbus, GA)
- **St Andrews Ministries** — Men's Ministry Team
- **Please pray for Mike & Ellen Brooks as they mourn the loss of Mike's mother, Francis Brooks.**
- **Please pray for those in our church family who are recovering from surgeries, accidents, cancer treatments, and other illnesses:**

*Sam Killeffer — Addie Jackson — Bill Harrison — Sara Brouwer  
Patricia Levine — Frank Clements — Dorothy Bryant — Susan Clickner*

**MISSIONARIES AND MINISTRIES  
SUPPORTED BY ST. ANDREWS**

**Bethany Christian Services** (Columbus, GA)  
**Covenant Theological Seminary** (St. Louis, Missouri)  
**House of Mercy** (Columbus, GA)  
**International Friendship Ministries** (Columbus, GA)  
**InterVarsity Christian Fellowship** — Paul and Margaret Tokunaga  
**Mission to North America (MNA)** — Chaplain Ministries  
**Chaplain Dr. Mike Stewart** (Medical Center, Columbus, GA)  
**Mission to the World (MTW)**  
    David and Erin Pervis (Ukraine)  
    Johan and Stephanie van der Westhuizen (Chile)  
    Gary and Tammy Elliott (Bulgaria)  
    Pete & Ruth Mitchell (France)  
**Pioneers**  
    Tom and Iris Lowder  
**Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)**  
    Auburn University (Wes and Nancy Simmons)  
    University of GA (Ben Coppedge )  
    University of South Alabama (Jacob and Leigh Zoller)  
**Valley Rescue Mission** (Columbus, GA)  
**Young Life**  
    Greater Columbus, GA  
    Atlanta, (Slate and Lindsay Fluker)

**Elders of St. Andrews**

**2019**

Bill Brouwer  
Matt Maxey

**2020**

Chris Schuster  
Greg Johnston  
John Mitchell

**2021**

Steve Adams  
Clark Cobb  
Tim Dodds  
Ted Thorne

**Deacons of St. Andrews**

**2019**

DR McNew  
Josh Schuster  
Allen Whitley

**2020**

Morgan Kimball  
Bill Shirley  
Ben Wallace

**2021**

Luke Addison  
Mitch Jaeger  
Mike Willett

# **The Purpose of St. Andrews Presbyterian Church:**

We exist to glorify and enjoy God as His called-out people:

Who are called together to worship God,

To be instructed in the Scriptures,

To be conformed to God's truth,

To reach out into our world with the news of the gospel.

