



## WORSHIP UPDATE

**This Sunday, Christmas Eve we will have two opportunities for worship.** We will first gather at 10:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center for a special interactive service for children of all ages in the telling of **"The Last Straw."** Our second service will begin at 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary and will feature special music, candlelight and communion. And with your help we'll have luminaries to guide and welcome everyone. Be in the Narthex at 6:15 p.m. to help set them out. **Looking ahead, on Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>** we will gather in the Commons Room at 10:00 a.m. to ring out the old and ring in the new. Everyone is welcome to bring Christmas goodies to share. Dress is casual and pajamas are welcome. So come to one or come to all, bring your family and guests! There's room for everyone!

**HOLIDAY MISSION FOCUS IS LOAVES AND FISHES.** The last time we collected for *Loaves and Fishes*, we filled 12 squarrels. A challenge has been made to fill **20** this time between now and Christmas Eve. To date, we've filled 10, **that leaves us 10 to go.** Thanks for your support. Here's a checklist of their greatest needs. Monetary gifts can also be made directly to *Loaves and Fishes* or to SAUMC (**designate Loaves and Fishes**).



### Priority Needs

- Canned Meat: Tuna, Chicken, etc...
- Canned Fruit: low sugar or in juice
- Pasta - Canned or Dry Boxed
- Low Sodium Canned Vegetables
- Peanut Butter
- Diapers - especially larger sizes

**No Glass Please**

## IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP PUT LUMINARIES TOGETHER

in preparation for Christmas Eve service or if you can help place the luminaires outside on **Christmas Eve at 6:15 p.m.**, please email Sherry Jackson at: [childrensministry@standrewsumc.com](mailto:childrensministry@standrewsumc.com)



## BOOK CLUB.

**Join us on Friday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 p.m.** for our first book club gathering of the new year. We kick things off by reading "The Midnight Library" by Matt Haig. See you at Nicole Campbell's home at 1617 Lyndale Place, Charlotte. Everyone is welcome.



## DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS PHOTO?

It's our very own Ruth and Hurst Mauldin preparing for a Swingin' Saints dance about 40 years ago!! Were you there that night, dancing the night away? If you were, we are looking for you! The Swingin' Saints will be celebrating our 55th anniversary on Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 p.m. We would love for as many former members to join us as possible, for a night of fun, fellowship, food, and maybe even a dance or two! Mark your calendars. Come see how many dance steps you remember!



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Brandon Tita on his graduation from Central Piedmont Community College.



## YOUR GIVING MATTERS!

As we move towards the close of this year, click here

[standrewsumc.com/uploads/1/2/3/2/12323833/2023\\_year-end-giving-brochure.pdf](http://standrewsumc.com/uploads/1/2/3/2/12323833/2023_year-end-giving-brochure.pdf) for more information about the timing and types of year-end financial gifts that can be made. As the writer of Deuteronomy tells us, "all must give as they are able, according to the blessings given to them by the Lord your God". (Deut. 16:17). We continue to give thanks to those who have been faithful in their commitments so that our church might honor ours. It is our hope that we can end this year and begin next year in a place of financial health.

**HELPING HANDS.** One of the ways in which our church extends light and life to the community is through the Helping Hands fund. Recently a new cross-cultural community family, the Lopezes, found themselves facing significant health issues with their eleven-year-old son, and the splitting of their rental house in two by a fallen tree as a result of recent storms. Throughout 2023, this fund has kept lights and heat on, provided temporary housing, filled gas tanks, and put food on tables. Your gifts to this fund are helping the Lopez family with temporary housing until a more long-term solution can be found. Tom Patton recently shared a quote, **"don't sell me Jesus, show me Jesus."** Our Helping Hands fund does just that. The undesignated offering on Christmas Eve will go to benefit this fund. You can also **"designate"** funds whenever you choose. Thanks for your continued support of this important ministry.

## THANK YOU.

To my church family,  
A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your love and support over the past year. Your prayers, cards, visits, meals, rides to treatments, long hours spent with me during infusions, and pleasant surprises helped me to make it through this difficult period in my life.

~Sincerely, Patti Huss

## DECEMBER Birthdays

- 27 Chris Brown Jr.
- 27 Christine Jelley
- 27 Jacob Plaisted
- 28 Jane Battin
- 29 Alex Kendall Jr.
- 30 Cember Carella
- 30 Herb Johnson
- 31 Ann Whichard

## JANUARY Birthdays

- 1 Athony Contreras
- 1 Steven Contreras
- 1 Isanya Pivaral



## WORSHIP SERVICE CHRISTMAS EVE December 24, 2023

**10:00 a.m.**  
Worship in the Family Life Center.

**"The Last Straw"**  
Matthew 2:10-11

**7:00 p.m.**  
**"Hark the Herald"**  
Luke 2:8-20.

**10:00 a.m.**  
**Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**  
**Commons Room #1**  
**casual attire.**

**Small group and Intercessory Prayer will resume January 7<sup>th</sup>.**

**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED**  
**DECEMBER 25<sup>TH</sup> - 26<sup>TH</sup>**  
**IN OBSERVANCE OF**  
**CHRISTMAS.**

**HOLIDAY HOURS**  
**Wednesday, Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thursday, Dec. 28<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00 a.m. - Noon.**

**GIVE ONLINE/  
OFRENDAR EN LINEA.**



**Our QR code will take you to SECURE GIVING/  
Nuestro código QR lo llevará a DONACIONES SEGURAS.**

## NOTICE:

There will be no bulletin or weekly Chatter for December 31<sup>st</sup>.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.







ST. ANDREW'S UMC  
**preschool**  
December 13th  
Christmas Program

## CHRISTMAS EVENTS PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



PROJECT HARMONY

December 14th  
Christmas Concert.



## December 17th - Cookies, Cocoa, and Carols

