



St. Andrew's  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

VOLUME 2025 | ISSUE 6 | AUGUST

# CROSSCURRENTS



*Christ is counting on us.  
We are counting on Christ.*





# From Pastor John

Dear St. Andrew's Friends and Family,

What an incredible summer this has been! In our imaginations we journeyed with Jesus our "True North" to the Yukon. The energy and curiosity of our young people was contagious as they prayed, played, sang, created, and learned about God's creation up north and Jesus from the great Bible stories. It was so much fun doing "church community theater" with our fearless leaders, Heather Brannock and Ronnie Crider, who guided my bumbling character "Scout Rivers" through his bumpy and winding journey of faith. Forest Home camp was another unforgettable spiritual experience filled with energetic games, moving worship experiences, and cabin talks that will always be a part of our middle and high school students walk with Christ.

Our Baptism Service on July 20 was a profoundly moving and joyful experience that none of us will ever forget: not only for the seventeen young men and women who were baptized or renewed their baptismal vows, but for all present. I thank God for Tim Christian and his leadership, as well as the whole youth team consisting of our interim assistant director Richard, interns Joel, Cailynn, Megan, and William, as well as our dedicated volunteers and parents. Our Presbyterian church polity gives room for baptism by immersion and that was my first personal experience with it. I'm grateful for our Session's openness and approval to do this. The trust of our students to fully go under the baptismal waters was a visually and spiritually powerful experience to share with Tim and our students. The reality that we die with Christ (going under the waters) and rise with Christ (being lifted back up through the water surface) gave me a deeper appreciation for the miracle and meaning of the Sacrament of Baptism. Truly, "Christ is counting on us" and "We are counting on Christ." The faith, courage, vitality, and sense of adventure in these young men and women have made a mark on me and our community of faith. As we continue to navigate our voyage of faith together, let us always remember our Baptism, that we are not only spiritually reborn in Christ, but that we are anointed for service as God's Beloved. May God richly bless you the remainder of this summer and always.

Joyfully,  
Pastor John



## UPCOMING

### Sermon Schedule

**AUGUST 03**

**EVER CREATING GOD** | EXODUS 3:1-14

**AUGUST 10**

**SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM** | MATTHEW 20:1-16  
*Parable of the Laborers in the Vineyard*

**AUGUST 17**

**SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM** | MATTHEW 21:28-32  
*Parable of the Two Sons*

**AUGUST 24**

**SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM** | MATTHEW 25:14-30  
*Parable of the Talents*

**AUGUST 31**

**SECRETS OF THE KINGDOM** | MATTHEW 25:31-46  
*Parable of the Sheep and the Goats*



# Volunteer Spotlight



## WORSHIP & MUSIC

In May, we highlighted how a warm greeting and welcome at the beginning of each of our services sets the tone for a wonderful worship experience. In June, we highlighted how the decorations and AV assist in our Worship. Sitting in the Contemporary Service a few Sunday's ago, singing "LION" with the congregation, one can be struck with how powerful music is in expression of God's love. This month we want to tell you about the music part of our worship and how you can get involved.

The music ministry at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church consists of various opportunities for those who enjoy singing or playing in both contemporary and traditional worship settings.

The Contemporary Worship Team is composed of musicians who perform on guitar, drumset, bass, piano, and voice during Contemporary Worship Services, while our Traditional Music program features our Chancel Choir and St. Andrew's Orchestra. Adjacent to the choir is the St. Andrew's Sisters, who perform in nursing homes during December and April.

Additional ensembles that branch off from the Orchestra include the Flute and Clarinet choirs, who perform throughout the year during the Communion and Traditional Worship Services.

The Wittman Ringers, our bell choir, is also interested in adding additional members to their ranks for their performances during Traditional Worship Services and Concerts.

For those who would like to glorify God not only through ensemble performance, vocal and instrumental solo artists are also welcome to play for the congregation.

If you have any questions, please visit the church website at [sapctucson.org/music-ministry](http://sapctucson.org/music-ministry), or contact either Director of Contemporary Worship Ben Constantinides at [benc@sapctucson.org](mailto:benc@sapctucson.org) or Director of Traditional Worship Mark Gary at [markg@sapctucson.org](mailto:markg@sapctucson.org).





# Mission & Local Outreach



## SERVICE WORSHIP RECAP

Thank you to everyone who served and donated for our July Service Worship!

### YOU HELPED:

- Make 200 Hygiene bags
- Make 200 Teacher appreciation bags
- Make 100 lunches for Gospel Rescue
- Make 140 encouragement cards and bags
- Set up preschool supplies
- Write letters for Bread for the World
- Helped at the Marana Back to School Event
- Prep a meal for Cross Streets

### YOU DONATED:

- 50+ pairs of shoes for Amphi Clothing Bank
- 150+ pairs of socks and underwear for the Amphi Clothing Bank
- 50+ boxes of diaper and period supplies for Tucson Refugee Ministry
- 50+ packs of toilet paper, paper towels and laundry detergent to use for Adopt A Family in December
- 25+ nail clippers and powder for the foot washing project at Hope City Church

**It's NOT too late** participate in Service Worship. We know many of you have been traveling for the summer, so if you missed picking up a Service Worship wishlist card, you can still stop by the coffee cart and pick one up. If you picked up a card for our Mission partners for Service Worship, you have until the end of August to bring the supplies in. Thank you for your continued support of this outreach opportunity.







## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY: ADOPT A FAMILY

The Christmas Adopt-a-Family program partners with schools and contacts in the community to reach the families that they recommend. St. Andrew's members have the opportunity to bless families with household goods, stockings, a food gift card, and gifts for the children for Christmas. The Mission Committee is looking for an individual or couple to coordinate this program with help from Sandy Kreamer, who has years of experience with the program. If you are interested, please contact Danielle Oxnam at [dmoxnam@gmail.com](mailto:dmoxnam@gmail.com).

## MOMENT FOR MISSION: MORE THAN A BED

Giving comfort and dignity to children in care, More Than a Bed provides essential items—beds, clothing, shoes, diapers, toys, and more—at no cost to foster, kinship, and adoptive families, including those in congregate care settings. Families often welcome children with little notice and limited resources, and this support helps ease their transition, offering stability and a sense of belonging. Serving thousands across 8 counties in Arizona, More Than a Bed also builds community through programs that foster self-esteem, academic support, and connection. Your in-kind or monetary donation ensures that every child is surrounded by care, compassion, and the message that they truly matter.

## A HUGE THANK YOU FOR DIAPERS!

The Tucson Refugee Ministry (TRM) is sincerely grateful for the diapers (children and adults), and feminine hygiene product donations provided by our congregation. The May Diaper Drive provided these much needed products that are difficult for the refugee population to afford. As a reminder, the Tucson Refugee Ministry nurtures and empowers refugees to thrive as an integral part of our community. Many refugees have waited in primitive refugee camps for years. After a rigorous selection process, if approved, they are placed around the world to start their new lives. Those who have been relocated to Tucson struggle to make ends meet as they learn the language and try to find jobs in Tucson. The process of assimilating into the Tucson community takes years and TRM does a magnificent job. For those who want to volunteer with TRM, there is a 2-hour online Refugee 101 Training Course that provides education about the process most of the refugees at TRM went through to get to the United States, refugee stories and skits depicting some cultural differences volunteers may be faced with when interacting with refugees. The training can be found at [tucsonrefugeeministry.com/training](http://tucsonrefugeeministry.com/training). And finally, St. Andrew's continues to accept diaper and hygiene products year-round in the collection bin in the Gathering Place. For more information, contact Marianne Hadden at [mariannehadden@gmail.com](mailto:mariannehadden@gmail.com).



# Children's Ministry

## VBS 2025 RECAP: JESUS IS OUR TRUE NORTH

From June 9-13, our church campus was transformed into an adventurous expedition as we explored the powerful theme: "Jesus is Our True North." Throughout the week, we journeyed through God's Word and discovered how Jesus is a faithful friend we can always trust—no matter where life takes us.

This year's Vacation Bible School was truly unforgettable! We welcomed 127 amazing kids—including 87 elementary-aged explorers and 40 energetic preschoolers—all eager to learn more about God's love, direction, and truth. With the help of 93 enthusiastic volunteers, we created a safe, fun, and Christ-centered experience that kids will remember.

Each day included:

- Dynamic Bible lessons that helped kids navigate life with Jesus as their compass
- High-energy worship and music that lifted hearts and filled the room with joy
- Fun games and activities that brought teamwork and laughter
- Exploring God's Word and receiving an engaging Bible Memory Buddy with the day's key Bible verse

A huge highlight of the week was our mission project in partnership with World Vision. Our VBS families and our congregation came together to help provide warm clothing and blankets to struggling families in need. Through their generosity, we raised an incredible \$956.39—a true testament to God working through willing hearts and little hands to make a big difference.

We wrapped up the week with a VBS Takeover Service on Sunday, June 15, at the 9:00 am service. Families gathered to sing, share, and celebrate everything God had done. It was a joyful reminder that with Jesus as our True North, we are never lost.

We are deeply thankful for everyone who gave their time, energy, and hearts to make VBS 2025 a success. Your prayers, service, and support made an eternal impact. We can't wait to do it all again next summer where we will explore the True Nature of God with Rainforest Falls VBS 2026!







## SUPER FRIENDS A SPECIAL NEED MINISTRY

**EVERYONE BELONGS!** Our special needs ministry to provide a welcoming, supportive, and inclusive space for individuals of all abilities to grow in faith and community. Whether you have a child, teen, or adult with unique needs, we offer a sensory friendly Sunday School class for our Super Friends and a parent support group. Our next meeting of Super Friends and parents will be on August 3 at 10:30 am in the Sunday School Rooms. Let us walk alongside your family in faith. For more information or to volunteer, contact Heather at [hbrannock@sapctucson.org](mailto:hbrannock@sapctucson.org). Because everyone deserves a place to belong!

## CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL COME GROW WITH US!

Get ready for fun, friends, and faith filled adventures every Sunday at 9:00 am! Children start in the Sanctuary with their parents and are then invited to go to their classrooms following the children's message.

- Room A: 3 year-olds and 4 year-olds
- Room D: Kindergarten
- Room E: 1st and 2nd grade
- Room I: 3rd-5th grade
- Room L: Nursery care for children under age 3

Each week we'll explore Bible stories, sing songs, make crafts, and learn how much Jesus loves us. Bring your smiles, your energy, and your curiosity—we can't wait to see you!

## THIRD GRADE BIBLE PRESENTATION

We're celebrating a special milestone! On August 24, during the 9:00 am service, we will honor our third-grade students with a Bible Presentation Ceremony. Each child will receive their very own Bible as a gift from SAPC—a tool to help them grow in their faith, learn about God's love, and begin reading Scripture on their own.

If your third grader would like to participate, please contact Heather by August 20 at [hbrannock@sapctucson.org](mailto:hbrannock@sapctucson.org).

## HOLY MOLIES

**Calling All 4th and 5th Graders!** Are you ready for an awesome adventure with friends, fun, and faith? This group, just for 4th and 5th graders, meets once a month to share dinner and explore God's Word through an engaging Bible study, games, and hands-on activities. Our first meeting will be on August 20 in Room F from 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm. This year we will be exploring the Armor of God. Bring a friend, bring your Bible, and \$5 for dinner. Get ready for an amazing night!





# Preschool & Kindergarten



August marks the beginning of a new school year for Preschool and Kindergarten! Our verse of the year reminds us, "This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it." – Psalm 118:24. With the prayers and support of our church family, we joyfully look forward to another year of sharing God's love with our youngest learners.

We're excited to share some campus updates, including new turf on our 1s/2s playground and in the STEAM courtyard. Thank you to our Facilities team and Technical Resources Committee for helping us continue to extend learning into the great outdoors!

**WELCOME  
BACK TO  
SCHOOL!**

If you'd like to support our Preschool and Kindergarten this school year, please join us in prayer for our staff, students, and their families. If you feel led, our Amazon wishlist (<https://a.co/2W1KNmY>) includes items that help foster a love of learning. Purchases are delivered directly to the school—please include your name so we can thank you!

## Adult Ministry

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**FRIDAYS | 9:00 AM | FRIENDSHIP HALL**

Eighty-three women can't be wrong! Friday Bible study is the place to be to worship, study God's Word, make new friendships, and pray for each other. We will resume our study of the Gospel of Mark on September 12. Watch September CrossCurrents for more information or contact Jan Littlefield at [jan.littlefield@comcast.net](mailto:jan.littlefield@comcast.net) or (520) 299-6851.

**womens  
bible  
study**

## MOMS Group

**making our mothering significant**

group of women of all ages and backgrounds. Come join us for an introduction to our studies on Thursday, August 28, at 9:00 am located in SW campus basement. We will be studying Jada Edwards book, "Galatians, Accepted & Free" for the first semester." Join Mom's Group on a journey to grow closer to God through friendship and fellowship. Childcare is provided.

### MOMS GROUP

**THURSDAYS | 9:00 AM | ROOM F**

Mom's Group is starting up again for 2025-2026 season! Studying God's Word together has bonded a wonderful

### MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**THURSDAYS | 8:00 AM | ALPHA**

Our morning study consists of a study led by one of our pastors on the current sermons series, prayer requests, and church announcements. We welcome all members and friends of St. Andrew's as we have an enjoyable time together in sharing, prayer, and study. Come join!



# Youth Ministry

## SUMMER 2025

This summer at SAPC Youth was one for the books. From Top Golf, pool parties, and Water Baseball to powerful moments of faith and community, God's presence was felt in every gathering, every game, and every conversation. Of course, with some silliness mixed in.

Each week, our students came together for Tuesday and Wednesday night Youth Groups as well as Sunday morning Sunday School bringing with them energy, questions, joy, and a hunger for connection and community. Summer interns Cailynn Cooper, Joel Akins, Megan Insalaco, and William Schafer became a vital part of our team, giving their time and hearts to the ministry.



Alongside them, we were thrilled to welcome back Richard Legarra as Assistant Director for the summer. Together, they didn't just help plan and lead events; they stepped into the lives of students, walking with them through real conversations about faith, life, what it means to follow Jesus, and what it means to be deeply rooted in our faith and live it out in real and authentic ways. At the end of the summer, each intern shares their testimony, offering powerful glimpses into how God has shaped their stories so far. We are truly blessed to have summer staff, thanks to the generous contributions from the Moonlight Dinner and Auction.

One of the highlights of the season was our Middle School Mission Days. On Monday, students served with TIHAN, learning about the needs of people living with HIV and doing tangible work to support them. Then, on Thursday, we headed to GAP Ministries, where our students helped sort supplies in the warehouse, learning firsthand the impact of Serving together.



Then there was camp, always a milestone in our year. This summer, we returned to Forest Home with 75 Middle School and High School students and 12 dedicated volunteer leaders. It was a week packed with adventure and joy, but even more so, it was a week filled with deep encounters with God. Away from distractions, students leaned into community and worship, and many had meaningful conversations that sparked renewed or new commitments to their faith.

But perhaps the most unforgettable moment of the summer came during Baptism Sunday. (See pictures on cover.) Seventeen students and leaders chose to be baptized or reaffirm their baptismal vows. Standing in front of our church community, they made bold public declarations of their faith. It was a sacred, emotional, and powerful reminder that God is at work in the lives of our young people.

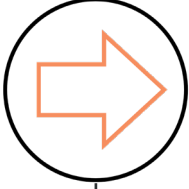
Now, as we turn the corner into fall, we carry with us the joy and transformation of the summer, and we are more excited than ever to continue this journey of faith with our students.

Want to learn more or get involved? Reach out to Tim Christian at [tchristian@sapctucson.org](mailto:tchristian@sapctucson.org). We'd love to connect with you!



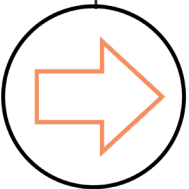


# Upcoming Events



## LABOR DAY CAMPOUT

St. Andrew's Labor Day Campout is returning for 2025! Come be a part of our intergenerational church family campout in God's great outdoors on our very own Mt. Lemmon. Capacity is limited so reserve your spot early. Stay 1-3 nights or just join us for the day and dinner on the mountain. Meals are provided and some camping equipment is available to borrow upon request. Enjoy the cool of the mountain and get better connected with others. Register at [sapctucson.org](http://sapctucson.org). Contact Scott Fiore [scott.fiore@me.com](mailto:scott.fiore@me.com) to request more info.



## ROCKY POINT MISSION TRIP

It is hard to describe some of the living conditions we have seen in Rocky Point, Mexico. There are families whose "houses" are literally made out of cardboard or tarps. You can change that – imagine being part of a group that builds them a \*home\*. A real home with a solid roof and walls, a concrete floor, doors that lock and windows that open. We have done it

for the last 18 years and you can help. You don't need any special talents or experience – just a willingness to work and learn. All ages are welcome on the weekend and there are jobs for everyone.

The dates for the weekend this year are October 23-26, 2025 (Thursday to Sunday). This year, we will be staying at the 1Mission Base Camp, also called the 1Mission Complex. You can also rent a nearby condo or hotel room if you prefer. We hope you can join us for this powerful weekend. It is a wonderful gift to be able to give to someone directly and see their faces when they receive the gift. Not only have we given them a secure place to live, we have also built them hope for the future. For more information, please contact Scott Fiore at [scott.fiore@me.com](mailto:scott.fiore@me.com) or Kevin Oxnam at [kevinoxnam@gmail.com](mailto:kevinoxnam@gmail.com). Because we are traveling into Mexico, you will need a passport or passport card to get back into the US. If you don't have one, apply soon as it can take up to ten weeks. Please register by August 24.



# Prayer & Care

## STEPHEN MINISTRY

You've been thinking about going through Stephen Ministry training for a while, it's just never seemed like the right time. If you're concerned that you don't have the time or the skills to be effective, know that God will be equipping you each step of the way. That's what Stephen Ministry is all about! Our next training class begins November 16, applications are being taken. Please contact Cheryl Smith at [cherylsmith@sapctucson.org](mailto:cherylsmith@sapctucson.org), or 520-297-7201 for more information.

## In Memoriam

Richard (Dick) Davis

May 28, 2025

Jack Quillen

June 4, 2025

Theresa Longshore

June 23, 2025

Douglas (Doug) Raine

July 9, 2025

## PRAYER REQUESTS

We'd love to pray for any needs you may have. Also, if you or someone you know is in the hospital, we would love to offer prayer support and a caring visit when welcomed and possible. For more information, contact our Care Ministry at 520-297-7201, [care@sapctucson.org](mailto:care@sapctucson.org), or [sapctucson.org/care](http://sapctucson.org/care).

## FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES DO YOU NEED PREENING?

Birds need preening to attract a mate but there are other important reasons too. They must groom or lose their ability to fly and navigate in the water. Preening involves layering of feathers so birds have balance in flight, picking off parasites and lice, pulling out tattered ones so new feathers have a place to grow and take oil from the base of feathers and spread it on them to make them waterproof.

Like bird caring for their feathers we must also groom our "feathers" by the following:

- » Layering our activities and putting them in proper order so our lives stay balanced.
- » Preening our thoughts by ridding them of self criticism and harsh judgments.
- » Pulling out mind-sets that keep us from being ourselves.
- » Oiling our positive qualities with consistent practice.

Be good to yourself today by becoming more fully alive, awake and satisfied and don't forget to do some preening.

Reference: Boundless Compassion by Joyce Rupp

## Financial Update

As of June 30, 2025

	YTD Offering	YTD Expenses
Actual	\$ 888,483	\$ 1,016,625
Planned	\$ 842,309	\$ 1,054,361
Difference	\$ 46,174	\$ (37,736)

Thank you for your support of our ministries. Please contact Brad in the Business Office at 520-297-7201 if you have questions.



S A P C

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