

CROSS CURRENTS

VOLUME 2025

SEPTEMBER

ISSUE 07



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FROM PASTOR JOHN

Dear St. Andrew's Family & Friends,

Greetings to you all! I want to convey my gratitude to Rev. Dr. Mike Eickhoff who has concluded his service as our Gap Interim Associate these last several months. Mike's seasoned ministry and corporate experience and extensive trauma training have been incredibly helpful for us in the healing journey. Let's continue to uphold Mike, his wife, Caryn, and son, Kirk, who is battling cancer in this trying time for their family.

I've heard from a number of parishioners about your appreciation for the update given in Sunday worship regarding how the Associate Pastor search is going. I'd like to follow up in writing with additional background to help us better understand the process we are in. I was recently able to

meet with Rev. Dr. Brad Munroe, who serves as our Pastor to Presbytery de Cristo, to gain a deeper understanding of the pastoral search process in our Presbyterian context. I have over the last ten plus years been very grateful for Brad's help and wise guidance through numerous ministry situations. From our conversation, I can share with you on a deeper level why we have the pastoral search process we do.

Because of the significant trauma our church has experienced with the tragic passing of Jim and Pati Toole several years ago and nearly half a year ago with Mat Grover, we need the expertise of interim pastors and the interim time to help us grieve, process, and begin to heal from all that has transpired. As individuals, we all heal in different ways and time periods, but we are all connected as one body. Overall, our church and staff continue to need more time to heal.

Interim pastors have a different kind of ministry than "permanent" pastors (but of course nothing and no one this side of heaven is truly permanent). Interims are tasked with raising difficult questions and prodding the status quo in the congregation and leadership team in a way that is difficult for called pastors who will ideally be with the community for the long-haul. Although we are making progress in the healing journey, there is still considerable interim work that St. Andrew's as a whole needs. In other words, we need to continue the track that we are on, moving forward with due diligence, but not rushing the process either.

Churches that expedite and speed through the interim season, particularly when a tragic event has happened, often unwittingly require the newly called pastor to do the difficult interim ministry that wasn't done or was rushed through before they arrived. In these situations, the called pastor's tenure is often very short and then the whole process needs to begin again. Experience has taught the church that fast-tracking the pastoral search process has the real potential of extending the process even further in

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the long run. If we want to increase the likelihood (but there are no guarantees) of our next called Associate Pastor having a healthy and long tenure, we will truly dwell in and use this interim period for the unique growth, self-reflection, and healing that still needs to take place. And so I encourage us to value the presence, role, and need of an interim pastor, for such a time as this. Waiting is not wasting time.

So patient prayer, trust, humility, and learning from the interim pastors will increase the probability for our future Associate Pastor to be a solid match for years to come. Rushing through this phase of our journey in order to quickly find a called Associate Pastor will increase the chances of a poor match that's short-lived. It's also important to remember Associate Pastors and Senior Pastors aren't a magic solution or secret formula to make everything "normal" again. We will always have challenges and joys to work through.

If our church governance was different and we had a bishop, we could have pastors placed here quickly and also be moved away quickly... but the congregation would have little to no say. Instead, we have a covenantal church polity where the local church has a much bigger role in the selection process. I think there is a great advantage to this, but it takes more time and energy on our part without a bishop, even with the presbytery's assistance. As Reformed Christians, we believe in the priesthood of all believers, so volunteers (not just professional ecclesial workers) are involved in this discernment process, and they have limited time involvement. And as previously mentioned, our denomination (and many others) are dealing with a clergy shortage. Is our system perfect? Definitely not. But it also has a lot of wisdom. And hopefully we can continue to fine-tune it into a "more perfect" system.

Time will also reveal what type of Associate Pastor we need to call to best fit our congregation's present needs and realities, which are different now compared to past seasons at SAPC. It's been said that a new person has big shoes to fill, but in truth, they will bring their own shoes that fit their feet quite fine. Pastor Mat was truly a one-of-a-kind person and we will never forget Mat or meet someone like him until we see him in heaven again. He was so fun, welcoming, and down to earth. Our future new associate pastor will not be Mat's replacement, but a new and different person with their own unique giftings and approach. And we'll receive that individual with the warmth and welcome of Jesus Christ and be enriched in new ways by their own one-of-kind approach.

I hope this background can help us not only survive, but thrive in this liminal season of interims and waiting upon the

Lord. God is leading us and will continue to lead us to where he wants us to go, in his timing—which is not necessarily our timing. And remember, our faith isn't in our pastors, whether they be Interim Pastors, Associate Pastors, or Senior Pastors. As you know well, our faith is in Jesus Christ. Let's heed St. Peter's wise guidance for us: *For ye were as sheep going astray, but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.* (1 Peter 2:25 KJV) Thank you so much for continuing to pray throughout this process for our congregation, the Session, Staff, the yet to be voted upon Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and the future person God has already prepared to be our called Associate Pastor at St. Andrew's.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John



JOIN US THIS FALL AT SAPC

FALL 2025 GROUPS

SUNDAYS FAMILY OF GOD CLASS 10:30 AM ROOM F	WEDNESDAYS PIECEMAKERS 9:00 AM CHOIR ROOM
YOUNG ADULTS 1:00 PM OFFSITE	HUGS SENIOR MINISTRY 10:15 AM FRIENDSHIP HALL
MONDAYS MAHJONG (2ND & 4TH) MONDAYS 1:00 PM OMEGA	MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 6:15 PM BOONDOCKS
TUESDAYS TAP DANCE CLASS 6:00 PM GATHERING PLACE	CHANCEL CHOIR 7:00 PM CHOIR ROOM
HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 6:30 PM BOONDOCKS	THURSDAYS MEN'S BIBLE STUDY 8:00 AM ALPHA
WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB (4TH TUESDAYS) 7:00 PM THE GATHERING PLACE	MOMS GROUP 9:00 AM SW CAMPUS LL
	FRIDAYS WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY 9:00 AM FRIENDSHIP HALL

LEARN MORE AT [SAPCTUCSON.ORG](https://sapctucson.org)

MISSION & LOCAL OUTREACH

MOMENT FOR MISSION: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Habitat for Humanity, a long-time mission partner, believes that a home is the foundation on which we all build our lives, and Habitat's vision is a world where everyone has a decent, safe, affordable place to call home. Habitat builds, repairs, and finances safe, affordable homes, working alongside the individuals and families who buy them. An affordable home sparks wider change — transforming lives and building stronger communities. Habitat for Humanity will present our Moment for Mission on Sunday, September 21.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY RIDE TO WORSHIP

The Deacons are in discussion on bringing back the Ride to Worship ministry. This ministry provides transportation, in the church van, to the 10:45 am service for those in nearby zip codes who don't have any other means to get to St. Andrew's on Sunday. The first step to make this ministry successful is having drivers to provide this ministry. If you are interested in this ministry and/or want more information, please contact Bill Boltz at 520-370-8553 or billboltz@q.com. Thank you for considering serving in this way!

MISSION UPDATES

BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLY DONATIONS

Heartfelt thanks to all of you who donated backpacks and school supplies. We delivered 34 backpacks filled with supplies to the children at Gospel Rescue Mission. Sandy Kreamer reports that Amphi Clothing Bank served over 200 kids in the 4 days we were open in the two weeks before school started. St Andrew's backpacks and supplies went to each of these kids...and half of them are from the refugee community. *You have made a difference in the lives of so many children. Thank you.*

ICS PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE

On behalf of Interfaith Community Services, I want to extend our heartfelt gratitude for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church's generous participation in our recent peanut butter food drive.

Thanks to your support, we were able to collect over 14,500 jars of peanut butter! Your willingness to give and serve has made a meaningful difference in the lives of many who are experiencing food insecurity.

We are continually inspired by the spirit of compassion and unity shown by faith communities like yours. Your involvement not only provided essential nourishment but also reminded our neighbors that they are not alone.

Thank you once again for partnering with us in this important mission. We look forward to continuing this meaningful work together in the future.

With sincere appreciation,

Becky Lococo
Community Outreach Administrative Coordinator
Interfaith Community Services



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY HOPE FOR CHRISTMAS: 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.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: BECOME A STEPHEN MINISTER

Stephen Ministers are lay congregation members trained to provide one-to-one care to those experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or the challenges of aging. Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life, but they all share a passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need.

When you decide to train to become a Stephen Minister, you will embark upon a Christ-centered experience that equips you with essential and high-quality caring and relating skills. Trainees learn how to listen to, care for, and walk with those going through difficult times in life.

Stephen Minister training will begin on Sunday, November 16. This is an engaging, energizing experience that features a mixture of presentation, video, group discussion, skill practice, and spiritual growth activities.

STEPHEN MINISTER TRAINING . . .

- *is typically taught in 20 weekly sessions*
- *teaches principles and skills that equip you to provide high-quality, Christ-centered emotional and spiritual care to others.*
- *gives you new insight into the thoughts, feelings, and actions of people who are hurting.*
- *equips you with relational and caring skills you can apply to all aspects of your life.*
- *helps deepen your faith as the Holy Spirit fashions you into a Christ-centered caregiver.*
- *builds a special bond of Christian community and camaraderie among all those in your class.*
- *is highly interactive, engaging, and a lot of fun!*

If you sense that God might be calling you to serve as a Stephen Minister, the first step is to find out more by contacting Cheryl Smith at clsmith1000@hotmail.com or (520) 271-6591.

FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES: TOP REASONS EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW CPR/AED & FIRST AID

According to the American Heart Association 70% of Americans feel helpless to act during a cardiac emergency because either they don't know how to administer Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) or their training has significantly lapsed.

- One minute is all it takes for a child to drown.
- 88% of cardiac arrests happen in the home.
- Only 6.4% of cardiac arrest victims survive because people witnessing the incident do not know CPR.
- Over 200,000 people die of Sudden Cardiac Arrest each year and 50,000 deaths could be prevented.

Why learn First Aid?

- By performing simple procedures and following certain guidelines, it may be possible to save lives by giving basic treatment until medical help arrives.
- In an emergency there is no time to read instructions, you need to react quickly and effectively which might make the difference between complete recovery and permanent disability.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church is offering a class on September 27, 2025, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm, in Friendship Hall.

CPR/AED follows Save-A-Life curriculum endorsed by Tucson Fire Department and taught by an American Heart Association certified instructor. The course includes the following;

- Infant/ Child /Adult one person rescuer
- CPR AED
- Choking maneuver

The cost is \$40. Contact Louise Doran (520-529-7748) for more information and to register. You also may sign up in the Church Office by September 22, 2025.

SAPC ART GALLERY ABOUT THE ARTIST: DAN HOFFBAUER

The Art Committee invites you to our next show in the SAPC Narthex Art Gallery. Our featured artist, Dan Hoffbauer, started his art career at the age of five with stick figures and who-knows-what. His mother was an artist and Dan's sister, Julene, is a pastel artist of note. Dan has been self-schooled in art, usually with historical scenes. He started out with oil but switched over to acrylics on canvas (who likes turpentine and linseed oil?). For 30 years Dan had "artist block" and could not finish a painting. What broke the logjam was his six years in NW Arkansas—having moved there from Southern California—and walking the Civil War battlefields of Pea Ridge and Prairie Grove.



Dan's historical interests and artistic talents combined to produce 13 major paintings from 2020 to 2023 in Arkansas about Civil War battles in Arkansas. He also did a book cover! In June 2024, Dan and his wife of 41 years, Jackie, moved to Oro Valley and he immediately started to get into Southern Arizona scenes and history. To date, Dan has completed or is working on over 10 paintings.

Dan grew up in Burbank California and is 73 years old. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California and owned and operated a manufacturing company for 32 years in Southern California—then embarked on a second career as a real estate agent in 2008 and is currently licensed in Arizona with Tierra Antigua Realty.

Dan is constantly working to improve his technique and subject matter, and is grateful for the opportunity to display his work. Your input on this is very helpful and will help him plan his art future here in Tucson! Contact him directly at 479-717-7091 or dantherealestateman1@gmail.com.

ADULT MINISTRY

FRIDAY MORNING WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

For 38 years, women have been gathering on Friday mornings. We have studied God's Word, made friendships, supported each other in prayer, and worshiped our Lord. Join us on September 12 as we continue our study of the Gospel of Mark. We meet in Friendship Hall on the NE campus from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. Study guides are \$30. We would love to have you join us. If you would like more information, contact Jan Littlefield at jan.littlefield@comcast.net or 520-299-6851.



WITTMAN RINGERS BELL CHOIR

Celebrate the goodness of God joyfully by ringing His praises with the Wittman ringers! Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm in the Choir Room. The ability to read music and a heart to praise God are all that is necessary, starting Tuesday, September 2nd. Play praise to God Who reigns on high!



HUGS: SENIOR MINISTRY

HUGS (Happily Under God's Supervision) starts up again on Wednesday, September 3, at 10:15 am in Friendship Hall. Great home cooked lunch is available for \$5. Please come see what this long-standing fellowship is all about and bring a friend! For questions, contact Susan Lane at laneslink@msn.com.

UPCOMING CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 3	Birthdays & Bingo
SEPTEMBER 10	Mini Time Museum
SEPTEMBER 17	Craig Plotner (musician)
SEPTEMBER 24	Remembering the 50s
OCTOBER 1	Birthdays & Bingo
OCTOBER 8	Tucson Art Museum Georgia O'Keefe
OCTOBER 15	Cross Middle School Choir
OCTOBER 22	Japan Trek with Vicki Johnson & Suzanne Graun
OCTOBER 29	Halloween activities and costumes (optional)
NOVEMBER 5	Birthdays & Bingo
NOVEMBER 12	Operation Christmas Child
NOVEMBER 19	Veterans Day with Preschool Kiddos
NOVEMBER 26	No HUGS - Happy Thanksgiving!
DECEMBER 3	Nativity Collection with Bonnie Kampa
DECEMBER 10	Birthdays & Bingo
DECEMBER 17	Christmas Movie and Popcorn
DECEMBER 24 & 31	NO HUGS Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
JANUARY 7	HUGS returns for 2026

WIDOWS & MORE



Widows & More is a group where ladies, whether widowed, divorced, caregivers for a spouse with memory lost, or have lost a partner in some way, gather together for friendship, support, and fun. Our mission statement is to encourage, be supportive, and be compassionate. Here are just a few examples of our gatherings.

LUNCHEONS

Meet on the first Thursday of the month rotating at 12 various restaurants. Contact Charlotte Smith at Cbsmith400@gmail.com for restaurant location and more information.

MAHJONG

Come play Mahjong on the second and fourth Mondays of the month in Omega from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm. Some play until 5:00 pm and some go to dinner together at 5:15 pm at various restaurants. Mahjong is **open to all ladies** (they can be married). We love beginners and will teach you. We play Chinese and American. Contact Sherie Broekema for more information.

Widows & More also go to the movies, concerts, sporting events, and field trips as planned. The last year we had a field trip to see the cranes in Willcox, San Xavier Mission, UA baseball games, & a Fever Concert. We are planning a night tour of Sabina Canyon and a trip to the UA planetarium. Anything we can organize and the ladies are interested in.

MOMS GROUP

**Join us for MOMS Group,
Thursdays, 9:00 am - 11:30 am!**

What to Expect Each Week:

- 🍰 Fellowship & snacks
- 📖 Devotional or video teaching
- 💬 Small group discussion
- 🙏 Time to pray for and with one another



This Semester's Study:

Galatians: Accepted & Free
by Jada Edwards

Come as you are — we'd love to have you with us! Just come downstairs on the SW Campus this Thursday. Bring your kiddo and invite a friend. Let's grow together!

SPIRITUAL GIFTS TRAINING DISCOVERING GOD'S VISION FOR YOUR LIFE

Have you ever asked yourself:

- Who am I?
- Why am I here?
- What's my place in the world?
- How can I make a difference?
- What does God want me to do with my life?

The course *Discovering God's Vision for Your Life: You and Your Spiritual Gifts* will address these questions and more. Along the way, course participants will discover their gifts and consider how to use them.

Examples of course content include:

- The Jesus Connection
- Love: The Heart of Spiritual Gifts
- Spiritual Gifts and Burnout
- Bloom Where You are Planted

Here are some of the comments from St. Andrew's members who participated in the previous training:

- "I have done spiritual gifts inventory in the past, but this class gave more insight and understanding."
- "It clarified in my mind what I am gifted to do."
- "Aspects of my personality are actually gifts because they inform how I approach tasks. It's not always the most obvious skills."

A registration fee of \$30 covers the cost of lunch and materials. If needed, free childcare will be arranged. To learn more about the course contact Jan Foran at (520) 300-1782 or email her at jgforan@comcast.net.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Sunday, September 14

12:15 pm - 4:00 pm
Modules 1-4

Sunday, September 21

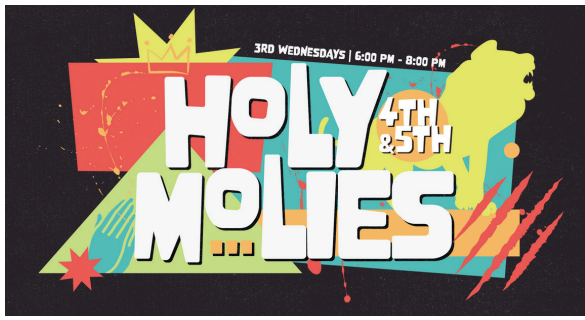
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Modules 5-6

Sunday, September 28

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm
Modules 7-8

All classes will be held in the Garden Room on the NE Campus.





CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

HOLY MOLIES

Our 4th and 5th graders will meet this month on September 17, from 6:00 pm -8:00 pm, in Room F. We will eat pizza, play games, and talk about God's Armor. Please bring a Bible, a filled water bottle, and \$5 to offset the cost of dinner.

SUPER FRIENDS: A SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY EVERYONE BELONGS!

Our special needs ministry provides 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 September 7, 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. Because everyone deserves a place to belong!



2025 TRUNK OR TREAT SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 26

Save the date for our 2025 Trunk or Treat! Bring your whole family to SAPC and enjoy a safe, fun, free, Halloween-alternative to trick-or-treating door to door. Kids can come dressed up in their favorite costumes and go from car trunk to car trunk in our parking lot - collecting tons of candy! Come to Trick or Treat through the trunks or sign up to decorate a trunk and pass out candy!

PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN

We give thanks to God for a strong and joyful beginning to the 2025-2026 school year! At the end of July, our teachers and staff returned to campus, preparing classrooms with care and excitement to welcome students and families. Enrollment is strong at 93% and continues to grow!

Our verse of focus this year is Psalm 118:24:
This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Guided by this verse, our prayer is that each day we approach play and learning with grateful hearts, playful spirits, and a sense of awe for God's creation.

For over 46 years, St. Andrew's Preschool & Kindergarten has served as an extension of our church's mission—sharing Christ's love while nurturing children's spiritual, social-emotional, physical, and developmental growth. We are grateful for this legacy and the many families touched through this ministry.

If you would like to partner with us, please contact the school office to learn ways to serve alongside us. We invite you to join us in praying for a school year filled with joy, play, and wonder!



YOUTH MINISTRY

It is September! School is back in the normal swing of things and so is the Youth Ministry! After an action-packed summer, we are excited to continue our momentum into the fall with all of our regularly scheduled programming.

- High School Youth Group | Tuesdays | 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm
- Middle School Youth Group | Wednesdays | 6:15 pm - 8:15 pm
- Sunday School Middle and High School | Sundays | 10:45 am

We are always looking for leaders who have a heart for students and want to spend a little time playing crazy games and engaging in some big conversations. If you, or someone you know, may be interested, please reach out to Tim at tchristian@sapctucson.org.

COLOR WARS 2025

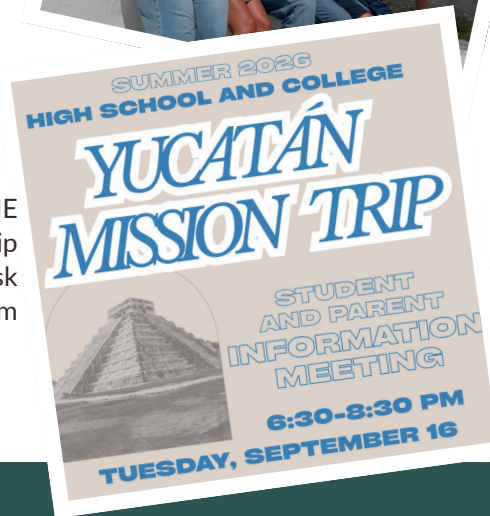


YUCATÁN MISSION TRIP: INTEREST MEETING

We're exploring the opportunity for a High School (2026-2027 school year incoming 10th graders-outgoing 12th graders) and College-aged mission trip to the Yucatán Peninsula, and we'd love to see who might be interested! This trip would give students a chance to serve others, grow in their faith, and experience a new culture together.

Join us for an informational meeting in the Boondocks (Basement of St. Andrew's NE Campus), where we'll share potential dates, costs, ministry opportunities, and what a trip like this could look like. There's no commitment required, just come hear the vision, ask questions, and see if this might be the right fit for you or your student. Let's dream together about how God might use us in the Yucatán!

SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 - 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM - BOONDOCKS



LEARN MORE AT SAPCYOUTH.COM.

PRAYER & CARE

STEPHEN MINISTRY

DO I HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A STEPHEN MINISTER...

Do you often find yourself being a listening ear to people in your life? Do you feel drawn to people going through a hard time to encourage them? Maybe you think you don't have enough experience to become a Stephen Minister....does the idea sound interesting but you're afraid to pray out loud for others? Don't let your doubts prevent you from taking the next step. If you're interested in expanding your faith and ministering to others, there's a good chance that you might be a good fit for the position. Why not fill out the application and continue the conversation with a member of the Stephen Ministry Leadership Team?



FINANCIAL UPDATE

Thank you for your support of our ministries. Please contact Brad in the business office at (520) 297-7201 if you have questions.

AS OF JULY 31, 2025

ACTUAL
PLANNED
DIFFERENCE

YTD OFFERING

\$986,616
\$962,936
\$23,680

YTD EXPENSES

\$1,250,041
\$1,241,459
\$8,582