

# Cross Currents

FEBRUARY | ISSUE 01 | VOLUME 2026

## From Pastor John

Greetings St. Andrew's Family and Friends!

Our 2025 Annual Meeting was truly a meaningful time with all of you. There's something so enriching and meaningful that happens in taking stock of the last year, especially when done in community. Seeing the picture slideshow, remembering the dearly departed, and reflecting on our church's ministry and mission this last year was particularly poignant. Through the tears, loss, pain, and yes, joys, we persevered. Life-changing experiences emerged out of the ashes. I'm incredibly grateful for our resilient spirit, even in the midst of our frailty and imperfection. And I'm believing for continued healing, spiritual formation, and impacted lives in the year ahead. God is on the move and we will continue to trust to the light.

In the coming months, we'll remain in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, continuing our deep dive into the Lord's Prayer through the month of February, then we'll commence our new series Beautiful Attitudes on the Beatitudes for Ash Wednesday on February 18 and throughout Lent. Let's hold the Grover family in prayer as the first anniversary of Pastor Mat's passing will be remembered in the February 22 services.

At the end of Matthew 4, Jesus' fame was taking the nation by storm. The synagogues were packed to hear His preaching on the good news of the kingdom. He healed every disease, sickness, pain, and spiritual torment among the people. Crowds followed Him everywhere.



But then He stopped. Jesus decided to take a hike up a mountain. There He paused the healing button and began teaching to both the inner-circle of the disciples and the outer-circle of the crowds. And did our Rabbi ever teach! The world would never be the same after His Sermon on the Mount.

The good news is that Jesus is still teaching, praying, and inspiring today. So let's continue our ascent with the disciples to hear His holy words on that mount again. Let's press on with the crowds and risk twisted ankles, sun exposure, and exhaustion. Let's listen for a challenging word that pokes and prods. Let's soak in the greatest spiritual teaching ever uttered. Let's learn that we don't have to suffer from our suffering. The cross of Christ can transform our pain into purpose and growth, for Jesus our Savior gives us a new and living hope that endures.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor John

### New Presbytery Moderator

We are pleased to announce that Louise Davis has been elected to serve as the Moderator of Presbytery de Cristo for 2026! Louise is filling the term left vacant by Pastor Mat's passing last February. Throughout this year, let's uphold Louise in prayer for wisdom, discernment, grace, and joy as she serves Christ and the church in this important leadership role.



[sapctucson.org](http://sapctucson.org)

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church | 7650 N Paseo Del Norte, Tucson, AZ 85704

# Sermon Schedule



**Sunday, 02/01**

**HALLOWED: LEARNING TO PRAY**

*Daily Bread*

**Sunday, 02/08**

**HALLOWED: LEARNING TO PRAY**

*Forgive Us Our Debts As We Forgive Our Debtors*

**Sunday, 02/15**

**HALLOWED: LEARNING TO PRAY**

*The Power and the Glory  
(Transfiguration of the Lord)*

**Ash Wednesday, 02/18**

**BEAUTIFUL ATTITUDES**

*Mourning*

**Sunday, 02/22**

**HALLOWED: LEARNING TO PRAY**

*Deliver Us From Evil*

**Sunday, 03/01**

**BEAUTIFUL ATTITUDES**

*Poor in Spirit*

**Sunday, 03/08**

**BEAUTIFUL ATTITUDES**

*Meek*



## Sunday Flowers

Would you like to honor a loved one or celebrate an event through flowers? The St. Andrew's Flower Team creates an arrangement on the first Sunday of each month to be used on the chancel for Worship Services. As a donor, your message would be included in St. Andrew's weekly email and a pre-service slide! It could be in memory or honor of a loved one, to celebrate an anniversary or birthday, or just because! Following Sunday services, small vases are created from the arrangement for the Care Team to share with our ill and homebound members.



**There are three ways you could sign up to be a donor:**

1. On the Flower Team calendar poster on the wall in the Gathering Place (near the TV)
2. At [sapctucson.org/music-ministry](http://sapctucson.org/music-ministry), scroll down to Flowers, and click the 'Sign Up' button
3. By calling the Church Office

For Sundays other than the first Sunday of the month, or for baby bud vases, or if you have questions, please contact Lisa Behr at [LKBehr@comcast.net](mailto:LKBehr@comcast.net). Thank you for supporting the flower ministry! New flower team members are always welcome.

# Upcoming Events

## Pastries with the Pastor

**Sunday, February 15 | 10:00 am**

Are you new (or newish) to SAPC? We would like to invite you to Pastries with the Pastor on Sunday, February 15, at 10:00 am (or following the 9:00 am Worship Service). Join Pastor John, enjoy some coffee and pastries, and learn more about St. Andrew's and the many great ways to connect at SAPC! Kids are welcome!



## Ash Wednesday Service

**Wednesday, February 18 | 6:30 pm**

On Ash Wednesday, the Church marks an important transition, beginning the great cycle of Easter that extends from Ash Wednesday to Pentecost. The imposition of ashes is the symbol of the beginning of Lent, the season of Lent is a season of penitence and prayer, reflection, and renewal. Join us for our Ash Wednesday Service on February 18.



## Deacon BBQ

**Sunday, March 8 | 10:30 am - 1:30 pm**

Save the Date for the 2025 Deacon BBQ! Join in for great food, family fun, and entertainment! Tickets will go on sale February 13 and all proceeds benefit the Deacon Benevolence Fund. Learn more at [sapctucson.org/events](http://sapctucson.org/events).



*Now  
Hiring!*

### OPEN POSITIONS

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Director of Adult Discipleship	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Custodian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local Outreach Director	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asst. Youth Director

LEARN MORE AT [sapctucson.org/job-opportunities](http://sapctucson.org/job-opportunities).

#### LOCAL OUTREACH DIRECTOR

We are hiring a part-time Local Outreach Director to strengthen our church's community ministry. This role equips congregants to share Christ's love through tangible, relational service, builds partnerships with local churches and organizations, and connects our congregation with real needs. Seeking an organized, collaborative, missional leader for service impact. Please apply by Monday, February 16, to [outreachsearch@sapctucson.org](mailto:outreachsearch@sapctucson.org).

#### DIRECTOR OF ADULT DISCIPLESHP MINISTRY

We are hiring a full-time Director of Adult Discipleship Ministry. This role leads a collaborative effort with the ADM Committee to craft and deliver a dynamic, outcomes-driven strategy for adult spiritual formation and evangelism. These programs will engage adults of all life stages including singles, couples, divorced, widowed, men's and women's cohorts. The goal of this leadership position is to help people encounter Christ, grow in faith, and build a genuine community that supports living and sharing their faith daily. Please apply to [admdirsearch@gmail.com](mailto:admdirsearch@gmail.com).

# Mission & Local Outreach

## Hope for Christmas

### Adopt-a-Family 2025

St. Andrew's, you are amazing in your generosity for others! Because of your generosity, we were able to expand our Christmas outreach to more than 44 families, provide \$150 food gift cards and \$50 for each parent, as well as gifts, clothes and shoes for all the children. We were also able to include household cleaning supplies and a wonderful Bible storybook for each family.

The generosity and compassion of St. Andrew's is one of the things we love about our church. The community will know we are Christians by our love and actions.

Thank you again and blessings in the new year.  
The Hope for Christmas Team



## Moment for Mission: The Abdou Family

Ashraf and Naomi Abdou (daughter of Albert and Anita Bickford) serve with Youth With A Mission North Africa. They live in southern Spain. Ashraf travels frequently to NA countries to give leadership and Bible study seminars. He aids Discipleship Training Schools in any way he can, and is part of the leadership in their YWAM team in Spain. Naomi supervises the online education of their three children and fills the rest of each week with volunteer projects and activities at the base, the local church, and in the community.

# Children's Ministry

## 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 upcoming meeting of Super Friends and parents will be on February 1 at 10:30 am in the Sunday School Rooms. Let us walk alongside your family in faith. For more information or to volunteer, contact our Children's Director, Heather, at [hbrannock@sapctucson.org](mailto:hbrannock@sapctucson.org). Because everyone deserves a place to belong!

## Kindergarten Prayer Partners

It's time to begin praying about joining our Kindergarten Prayer Partner Ministry! We are looking for ten adults who are willing to walk alongside a child in their faith journey through prayer and encouragement. As a Prayer Partner, you will commit to:

- *Praying for and with your partner*
- *Building a supportive, faith-focused friendship*  
(The children will also pray for you!)

Have you served as a Prayer Partner before? We would love for you to join us again! Prayer Partners will meet on February 15 during the 9:00 am Sunday School hour. To volunteer or for more information, please contact Heather at [hbrannock@sapctucson.org](mailto:hbrannock@sapctucson.org). Thank you for considering this meaningful ministry!

## Gallery Artists: Tucson Barrio Painters 1/18/26 - 2/22/26 SW Campus Narthex

Denyse Fenelon, founder, started the Tucson Barrio Painters in 2018. They have been meeting weekly to record the historic barrios of Tucson before they are lost. Painting plein air and studio works in oils, pastels, and watercolors. Meeting the residents of the barrios is a wonderful way to create a community through art.

"A Sense of Place" the name of one of our shows conveys a lot about what we are doing. Recording the history of some of Tucson oldest neighborhoods. Interviewed on PBS Mark McLemore's "Spotlight on the Arts" which aired prior to our initial exhibit at the Tucson International Airport we had the most successful exhibit in the airports history according to the airports Community Relations Director Viki Matthews. Denyse has also been on PBS "Arizona Spotlight" discussing plein air painting. The group regularly does demonstration paintings to share the joy of painting outdoors with the public.



## Holy Molies Family Movie Night

Holy Molies children and their families are invited to Family Movie Night on Wednesday, February 25, at 6:00 pm in Room F. We'll enjoy pizza and watch Soul Surfer (rated PG), which connects with this year's theme, The Armor of God.

This event is for the whole family—parents, siblings, grandparents, and all are welcome! Please bring blankets, pillows, or lawn chairs to get comfortable. Families with children younger than 4th grade must have an adult attend with them.

We hope you'll join us for a fun and meaningful evening together!

## Rainforest Falls VBS

**June 8 - 12, 2026**

**Registration for children and volunteers will be open March 22-May 15.**

Registration packets will be mailed mid to late March. Register online at [sapctucson.org/kids](http://sapctucson.org/kids). More details coming soon—we hope you'll join us for an exciting week of VBS!



**VBS Registration!**



# Youth Ministry

## Love In Action

### (Formerly 30 Hour Famine)

We are accepting new socks and underwear in partnership with Love In Action for distribution through Hope City's Distribution Center. Donations will be accepted now through February, and a collection box will be available in the Sanctuary beginning this week. Thank you for helping meet a practical need in our community. Learn more, register, or sign up to volunteer at [sapctucson.org](http://sapctucson.org).



## Super Sign-Up Sunday

### Camp Dates: July 8-13

Every summer in July, our Middle School and High School students head to Forest Home Camp in the beautiful San Bernardino Mountains for an unforgettable week. Camp is packed with games, worship, teaching, zip-lining, hiking, blobbing, competitions, night games, meaningful friendships, and more.

Spots are limited and fill quickly. Last year, High School camp sold out in under 35 minutes. Super Sign-Up Sunday is your best, and possibly only, opportunity to secure a spot. Registration will open online at 2:00 pm on Sunday, March 8.



This year's camp dates are July 8-13 (Wednesday-Monday) because who says different can't be fun? The deposit to hold a spot is \$50. The total cost will be determined and released soon. Sibling discounts and scholarships will also be available. We can't wait for you to join us!

## Preschool & Kindergarten

### REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE 2026-27 SCHOOL YEAR!

We are excited to announce that registration is now open for our 1s, 2s, 3s, 4s, and Kindergarten classes!

Our Preschool and Kindergarten programs offer small class sizes, two dedicated teachers per classroom, engaging indoor and outdoor play-based learning, and a curriculum rooted in faith. To start the Admissions Process, please email Katie Vidal at [kvidal@sapctucson.org](mailto:kvidal@sapctucson.org) to share your intent to enroll and receive an invitation to join Brightwheel, our all-inclusive school app, to complete your registration.



### SUPPORT OUR KINDERGARTEN PROGRAM

Looking for ways to make a difference? Consider making a Tax Credit donation to support our Kindergarten program! Your contribution can provide financial assistance to families while offering you a dollar-for-dollar credit on your state income taxes.

For the 2025 tax year, the maximum donation amounts are \$3,062 (married filing jointly) and \$1,535 (single) or your actual tax liability, whichever is less.

To donate or learn more, visit:

- Institute for Better Education [ibescholarships.org](http://ibescholarships.org)
- Arizona Christian School Tuition Organization [acsto.org](http://acsto.org)

You can also call the School Office at 520-742-2969 or pick up donation brochures in the Narthexes on both campuses. Thank you for your generous support! Together, we can help every family access the blessing of a faith-based, early childhood education.

# Adult Ministry



## There is a place for you!

Are you looking for ways to connect and go deeper in friendships and faith? There is a place for you at SAPC.

Visit our Worship+2 and Adult Ministry pages to learn about ways to grow and serve. You can also email [standrews@sapctucson.org](mailto:standrews@sapctucson.org) and we will help connect you. Take your next step and join a group!

[sapctucson.org/worship2](http://sapctucson.org/worship2)

[sapctucson.org/adm](http://sapctucson.org/adm)

## More SAPC Groups

### HUGS Senior Ministry

Wednesdays, 10:30 am - 12:45 pm



### Men's Bible Study

Thursdays, 8:00 am



### SAPC Young Adults

Find upcoming times & dates on [Instagram. @sapccollege](https://www.instagram.com/sapccollege)



### Family of God Class

Sundays, 10:30 am

## Women's Friday Morning Bible Study

The Friday Women's Bible Study will begin a six-week study of the book of Esther (February 27 through April 3). The book of Esther tells the story of a Hebrew girl who was hidden away for God's purpose and plan. God used Queen Esther, who was willing to risk her own life, to save His people of Israel so they might bless the whole world through Jesus Christ.

Please contact Jan Littlefield at 520-299-6851 (no text) or [jan.littlefield@comcast.net](mailto:jan.littlefield@comcast.net) by February 20 to register and purchase the study guide (\$12).

We would love to have you join us for study, fellowship, and prayer.



## MOPS Group

MOPS Group (Making Our Motherhood Significant) has kicked off its second semester and is welcoming new moms to join! This semester, we'll be studying Chase by Jennie Allen, focusing on pursuing Christ with purpose and intention in every season of motherhood.

MOPS Group is open to moms of all ages and stages, creating a beautiful space for multigenerational connection, encouragement, and faith-centered conversation.

MOPS Group meets every Thursday morning from 9:00 am - 11:30 am on the lower level of the SW Campus, and childcare is provided.

For more information or to join, please contact:  
Jen Johnson - [millie5599@yahoo.com](mailto:millie5599@yahoo.com)  
Jaclyn Waggoner - [jaclynwags@gmail.com](mailto:jaclynwags@gmail.com)

# Prayer & Care

## Stephen Ministry

**February 20 is National Caregiver's Day** – a time to recognize those who provide care and support to others. Are you a caregiver? Are you trying to find ways to meet your needs and take care of others? Give yourself the gift of a Stephen Minister- someone to come alongside you to listen with care, to pray for you and to offer encouragement. Schedule this time for yourself and find out how beneficial a Stephen Minister can be. For more information visit [sapctucson.org/care](http://sapctucson.org/care) or call the Church Office, 520-297-7201, or Cheryl Smith at 520-271-6591

### In Memoriam

**Barbara Seifried**  
December 13

**Sally Kley**  
December 15

**Barbara 'Oz' Vulkoff**  
January 13



FROM YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY NURSES  
A CHEERFUL HEART

*"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones"*  
**Proverbs 17:22**

There's an old adage that laughter is the best medicine, it happens to come from the Bible. Here are a few scriptures addressing joy which you can review, read to yourself aloud, and contemplate.

**Psalm 30:11**  
*"You have turned my mourning into joy!  
You have taken away my clothes of  
morning and clothed me with joy."*

**Psalm 96:12**  
*"Let the fields and their crops burst with  
joy! Let the trees of the forest sing for joy."*

**Psalm 98:4**  
*"Shout to the Lord, all the earth; break out  
in praise and sing for joy."*

**Psalm 126:2**  
*"We were filled with laughter, and we sang  
for joy. And the other nations said 'What  
amazing things the Lord has done for  
them!'*

Norman Cousins wrote in his book "Anatomy of an Illness," laughter reduces stress, fights off depression and sorrow, fosters a positive outlook on life, and puts you in a good mood. Strive to be happy and laugh aloud every day.

## Financial Update

As of December 31, 2025		YTD Offering	YTD Expenses
Actual		\$1,704,650.00	\$1,937,889.00
Planned		\$1,718,487.00	\$2,013,575.00
Difference		\$(13,837)	\$(75,686)

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