

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF MINISTRIES
JANUARY 4 - JANUARY 10

SUNDAY, January 4

8:30 a.m. Contemporary Service
9:30 a.m. Fellowship Coffee Time
9:50 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Traditional Service

MONDAY, January 5

7:00 a.m. Men's Prayer Breakfast
5:00 p.m. Missions
6:00 p.m. Charity Circle

TUESDAY, January 6

10:00 a.m. Christian Studies Class
5:30 p.m. Celebrate Recovery

WEDNESDAY, January 7

9:00 a.m. Ladies' Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Stephen Ministry Training
5:00 p.m. Adult Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Chance Choir Practice
6:00 p.m. Youth/Children Activities
7:00 p.m. Praise Band Practice

THURSDAY, January 8

9:00 a.m. Quilt Guild
4:30 p.m. Community Meal

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ORG
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standrewscullman.org

The Monthly Newsletter of St. Andrew's Global Methodist Church



Volume 26, Number 12

December 16, 2025

ST. ANDREW'S STAFF

Senior Pastor
Robert Lancaster

Associate Pastor
Brian Bradley

Children's Director
Kellie Britton

Youth Director
Michael Thompson

Organist
Jannie Ratliff

Pianist
Melinda Briscoe

Office Administrator
Lori Tafazoli

Preschool Director
Wendy Ryan

OUR VISION:

Our vision is to be a worshipping, loving and witnessing church in Cullman County where disciples of Jesus Christ live out their call to ministry and are nurtured in small groups.

Our Mission:
Reach the lost,
nurture the
faithful.

Are Christmas Carols Just for Christmas?

One of the things I love most about Christmas are the Christmas carols we sing on the Sundays of Christmas. I love "Silent Night", "O Little Town of Bethlehem", and "Emanuel". That is just three of many amazing Christmas hymns. But what a shame that we have to wait until Christmas to sing these beautiful testimonies of Christ's birth. Which begs the question: "Why do we sing hymns of the birth of Jesus only at Christmas. We sing hymns that could be considered Easter Hymns all year long. We sing the Old Rugged Cross year-round. We sing hymns like "Because He Lives" and "I Know My Redemer Lives" and other hymns that speak of the death and resurrection of Jesus all year long. But songs like. "Joy to the World", an amazing hymn, we sing only during December. When did we decide to sing hymns about the birth of Jesus only for a few weeks each year?

I am just as guilty. I preach sermons about the death and resurrection of Jesus year-round. But the birth of Jesus, only during Christmas. His birth is a reason to celebrate year-round. Without the virgin birth of Christ, the cross would lose much of its meaning. If not for the virgin birth, the prophecy would not have been fulfilled, and then Christ would not be the Messiah foretold by Isaiah. And it is not just the prophecies of Isaiah. Several prophets speak of the birth of Jesus. "But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times." – Micah 5:2. "The days are coming," declares the Lord, "when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land." – Jeremiah 23:5. I hope we change things up a little this year. I would love to sing "Silent Night" in the middle of July or "We Three Kings" during Lent. Let's honor the birth of Jesus year-round. Let's sing of the Christ Child during Easter. Let's remember His birth all year. For without His birth, would there be an Easter?

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

HELP US BUILD LASTING MEMORIES AT CAMP SUMATANGA!

At Camp Sumatanga, we believe in the power of nature, friendship, and community to inspire and transform lives. Every summer, over a thousand campers experience unforgettable moments of growth, adventure, and spiritual discovery here. Throughout the year, hundreds of adults also experience connections. Now, we're reaching out to ensure that these treasured connections continue to flourish for generations to come. Your generosity helps us maintain and improve our facilities, provide camp scholarships, and create meaningful, accessible programs that nurture young minds and foster connections with the world around them. By contributing to *Creating Camp Connections 2025*, you play a vital role in bringing the joy of camp to those who might not otherwise have the chance. To give visit the Camp Sumatanga website.

- **Cabin Renovations** - Last year's campaign helped us build-out Pool Camp Cabins 5 and 7 to make them ADA compliant. This year, we aim to complete Pool Camp Cabin #7 to be fully ADA-compliant, including the removal of steps, installation of a new ramp and hand railing, and other key accessibility upgrades. These improvements will ensure that individuals of all abilities can fully participate in the camp experience. Estimated cost: \$60,000
- **Lodge Renovations** - The Lodge at Camp Sumatanga is a favorite retreat space for many of our guests, including our beloved friends from the Emmaus community. To keep it welcoming and comfortable for all who gather here, we're making much-needed updates — starting with replacing the stall walls in the bathrooms for improved privacy, safety, and durability. Your gift will help preserve this special space as a place of rest, reflection, and spiritual renewal for generations to come.. Estimated Cost: \$7,000
- **HVAC** - To continue providing a welcoming, restful experience for all who visit, we're replacing aging heating and cooling units in the North Hall. This space serves as overflow dorm rooms and reliable climate control ensures guests stay safe, comfortable, and focused on what matters most — spiritual growth, community, and connection with God. Your gift helps us maintain our facilities with care and hospitality in every season. Estimated Cost: \$11,000.

