

# CROSS CURRENTS

MAY | ISSUE 4 | VOLUME 2026



**LOOKING UPWARD  
MATURING INWARD  
REACHING OUTWARD**

# FROM PASTOR JOHN

Dear St. Andrew's Family and Friends,

It is my prayer that you and I would be blessed in our spiritual walk. Walking is good for the body, mind, and soul. I love going on walks, whether in the Tohono Chul gardens, along the Linda Vista trail, or — in the near future — the labyrinth in the soon-to-be-completed Prayer Garden, established in memory of Jim and Pati Toole on the NE campus.

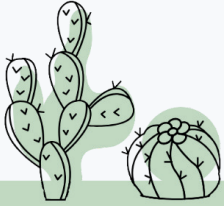
A number of important figures throughout history have valued walking. The philosopher Aristotle taught while walking, Immanuel Kant took his walks like clockwork, and Henry David Thoreau walked four hours a day. Albert Einstein regularly walked the paths of Princeton, and Nikola Tesla walked because it sparked ideas. Charles Dickens and Beethoven each walked many miles a night, and it is said that Wordsworth walked 180,000 miles over the course of his life. Abraham Lincoln loved to take long, contemplative walks.

There are also famous walks recorded in Scripture: God walking in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8–24); Jesus' walk to Calvary, carrying His cross, and Simon of Cyrene, who took up Christ's cross and carried it to the final destination (Mark 15:20–39); the resurrected Jesus' walk to Emmaus with Cleopas and another companion (Luke 24:13–35); and Saul's walk on the Damascus Road, where he encountered the risen Christ and became a changed man — the Apostle Paul, who no longer persecuted Christians, but instead suffered and died for Christ.

The good news is that Jesus helps us rise up, take up our mat, and walk home — changed (Mark 2: 10-12). With Christ in us, we talk the talk and walk the walk. We are those who walk by faith and not by sight. And as followers of Rabbi Jesus, we — His modern-day disciples — follow Him, always striving to keep pace with Jesus, who is our living, breathing Path and Prize. May you, my reader, receive this ancient Jewish blessing: "May you be covered in the dust of your rabbi" as you follow close at the heels of our Teacher on the road of life.

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor John

## The Prayer Garden



# APRIL RECAP

The month of April was full at SAPC with Easter celebrations, the Mission Fair, Discover SAPC: New Member Class, Moonlight Dinner & Auction, Blessing of the Prayer Garden, and Spring Service Worship, and more! God is good!

## EASTER 2026



where, o death, is your victory?  
where, o death, is your sting?



**LOVE**  
SERVE ONE ANOTHER

## TRM DIAPER DRIVE

St. Andrew's is hosting a May Diaper Drive for Tucson Refugee Ministry and we can use your help.

- Children's diapers are needed most but adult diapers and feminine hygiene products are also needed.
- A donation bin for diapers is located in the Gathering Place.
- Tucson Refugee Ministry serves refugees who have been relocated from around the world to Tucson, many who lived for years in refugee camps, until being invited into the United States after a rigorous selection process.
- These neighbors of ours face many obstacles and Tucson Refugee Ministry works with them for years to help them thrive as an integral part of our community.
- Tucson Refugee Ministry hosts a free coffee shop on Wednesday and Friday mornings and the public is encouraged to attend to socialize with the refugee families.

For more information, contact Marianne Hadden at [mariannehadden@gmail.com](mailto:mariannehadden@gmail.com).

**Tucson REFUGEE MINISTRY**

**DIAPER DRIVE**

**ITEMS NEEDED**

- CHILDREN'S DIAPERS
- ADULT DIAPERS
- FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS

**COLLECTION BIN IN GATHERING PLACE**

# SPRING SERVICE WORSHIP

Service Worship Sunday was truly an amazing day of intergenerational fellowship, service, and loving others. We had wonderful project leaders along with about 200 people serving, which allowed us to bless our neighbors, several mission partners, schools, and first responders. It was a joy to see everyone's unique skills, artistic talents, organization, creativity, love, and willingness to serve the Lord. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate!



## Here is a list of what we accomplished:

- Created handmade pillowcases for **1Mission** families and the young adults at **I AM YOU 360**.
- Decorated custom gift bags for **TIHAN's** Poz Cafe event.
- Assembled 800 "Blessing Bags" containing essential hygiene items for our **unhoused neighbors**.
- Painted and delivered 400 decorative rocks to our church's immediate **neighbors**.
- Honored **first responders** at 10 fire stations, the Oro Valley police department, and Pima County Sheriff's office with SAPC "Gift Packs."
- Brightened the day of **seniors** through handmade crafts, music, and treats at a nearby care home.
- Showed appreciation to the **staff at Butterfield, Laguna, Cross, and Harelson** schools by creating 300 "Tote-ally Awesome" encouragement cards and providing snacks and tote bags.
- Helped sort and change out clothes from winter to summer at **Amphi Clothing Bank**.
- Sorted donated shirts at **Gospel Rescue Mission** and organized several bins, with hundreds of hangers, out at their mobile clothing trailer
- Cleared out rock from planters at **Butterfield Elementary** to allow the space to be used for planting.
- Transformed a brown wall at **Laguna Elementary** by painting a mural with the school's logo.
- Helped with farm chores at **TRAK** (Therapeutic Ranch for Animals and Kids) and enjoyed spending time with the animals.
- Partnered with **Good News Community Church** for a Saturday mobile outreach, attended Sunday service, and provided hospitality.
- **Prepared and served** a community meal for 270 guests at **Cross Streets Ministry**.
- Volunteered with **Hope for Tucson** in their hospitality lounge, clothing closet, and foot-washing ministry.
- **Our morning was covered in prayer!** We took time to pray for our community, our mission partners, and our church, and asked that each project would be used to glorify God.



## 2026 ANNUAL SAPC MISSION fair



# ADULT MINISTRY

## FRIDAY MORNING WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Friday Morning Women's Bible Study is taking a summer break. We will resume on September 18 with a study of the book of James. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us. For more information contact Jan Littlefield at [jan.littlefield@comcast.net](mailto:jan.littlefield@comcast.net).

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## SUMMER INTERN APPLICATION

Are you interested in what goes on behind the scenes of Youth Ministry? SAPC Youth Ministry is currently accepting applications for volunteer and paid interns this summer! Interns will spend the summer learning and serving in the Youth Ministry while growing in their own personal faith! High School students who have completed their sophomore year are invited to apply to be a volunteer intern. Visit [sapcyouth.com](http://sapcyouth.com) to apply.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION DAYS

Since so many Middle School students (incoming 6th-8th graders) and their friends are involved in VBS, we will be adding the opportunity to make the most out of your week! We will be doing two mission adventures following VBS Monday (6/8) and Thursday (6/11) of VBS week. Students may do one or both of the days.



## GRAD SUNDAY & 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PROMOTION

All graduating seniors from high school and college are welcome to be celebrated and prayed for at the 9:00 am service on May 17 at **Grad Sunday**. Submit your graduation information and photo at [sapcyouth.com](http://sapcyouth.com) so we can add you to the celebration!

Save the date for the **5th Grade Preview** Sunday, May 17, at 12:30 pm. We will welcome all incoming 6<sup>th</sup> graders to experience Youth Ministry for the first time. We'll have pizza and play a game or two while parents can get all their questions answered by Tim, and a few youth leaders. For questions Tim at [tchristian@sapctucson.org](mailto:tchristian@sapctucson.org).

# PRESCHOOL & KINDERGARTEN



As we conclude the 2025-2026 school year, we are filled with gratitude for the opportunity to share Jesus' love with our students. A central pillar of our ministry is participating in monthly Chapel, where faith is made personally meaningful and relevant for our youngest learners.

Each Chapel day begins with joyful worship, followed by a greeting and prayer from Pastor John. Both the Preschool and Kindergarten and Children's Discipleship Directors then share a Bible story, often bringing the message to life with the enthusiastic help from our students.

In April, we celebrated the Easter season by learning about Jesus feeding breakfast to His friends on the beach. This story shared that, after Jesus's resurrection, He offered vital instruction to His disciples to share His love and hope to the world.

We are consistently moved by the presence of parents, grandparents, and loved ones who attend Chapel with our students. Seeing families worship together fosters faith in the next generation and makes Chapel a special part of their child's experience at St. Andrew's.



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING SAPC YOUTH!**

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## RAINFOREST FALLS VBS: JUNE 8-12

We are looking for volunteers to help with kids during VBS 2026! Below are some of the areas where we still need volunteers.

**Preschool and Elementary Crew Leaders:** Best for people who enjoy building relationships with kids and walking with the same group throughout the day. Open to anyone who has completed 6th grade through adult. Kids will be placed in crews of five. Each Crew Leader is responsible for guiding their crew from station to station, asking questions, encouraging participation, and building relationships with their crew members. Crew Leaders will also lead a short discussion during snack time using provided questions. No lesson planning is required—your main role is building relationships, encouraging kids, and helping them feel welcomed and loved. **Number Needed: 42**

**Elementary Bible Adventure:** Lead crews in discovering the meaning of each day's Bible story through hands-on, engaging experiences. Crew leaders assist with small group discussions where kids connect the Bible story to real life. Room decorations change daily. **Number Needed: 2**

**Elementary Imagination Station:** Best for volunteers who enjoy science experiments and hands-on learning. Lead exciting science experiments that connect to the daily Bible story and Bible Point. Kids use "Sciency-Fun Gizmos" to explore activities that point to God. Room decorating is required. **Number Needed: 2**

**Elementary Sticky Scripture:** Help kids learn the daily Bible verse through an interactive video and activities. Crews practice finding, reading, and marking each day's key Bible verse in the Book of Psalms. Room decorating is required. **Number Needed: 3**

**Elementary Game Station Leader:** Best for energetic volunteers who enjoy leading active games. Lead fun games that reinforce the daily Bible Point and introduce the Operation Kid-to-Kid project on Day 1. Each day includes three game options to choose from. **Number Needed: 1**



**Preschool Exploration Stations:** Set up and lead hands-on themed activity stations. Preschoolers choose which stations they would like to explore during this free-choice time. All plans and supplies are provided. **Number Needed: 1**

**Preschool Bible Adventure:** Lead preschoolers through an interactive Bible story experience. Children engage with the story using their hearts, minds, and emotions. Crew leaders assist with discussions. Room decorations change daily. **Number Needed: 1**

**Preschool Sticky Scripture:** Help preschoolers learn the daily Bible verse through movement, laughter, and hands-on activities. Leaders play the video and guide crew leaders in leading a short discussion. Room decorating is required. **Number Needed: 1**

**Preschool Closing Circle:** Lead a short closing time with music and a review of the day before parents arrive for pickup. **Number Needed: 1**

**Youth Station Assistants:** Youth who have completed 6th grade may assist in any station. Assistants help the Station Leader with teaching and activities. This is a great opportunity for youth interested in learning how to lead a station in the future.

**Flex Support:** Assist wherever needed during VBS. This may include preparing materials, organizing supplies, assisting crews, or supporting other volunteers as needs arise.

**Substitutes:** Serve as an on-call volunteer during VBS week and step in if a volunteer is absent. **Number Needed: 1**

**Information Office:** Best for organized volunteers who enjoy helping families and answering questions. Serve as the main point of contact on the SW campus. Responsibilities include assisting with late drop-offs or early pickups, contacting the VBS nurse if needed, and communicating with the church office. **Number Needed: 1**

**We cannot do VBS without our volunteers!** For more information and to register, visit: [sapctucson.org/event/vbs-2026-rainforest-falls](http://sapctucson.org/event/vbs-2026-rainforest-falls)





**VBS donations needed!**

**VBS DONATIONS NEEDED**

We are requesting donations to help offset the cost of VBS this year. Please use the link below to view the list of needed items. We are also accepting monetary donations for scholarships for children who are not able to afford the registration fees. To donate to the VBS Scholarship Fund, please visit [sapctucson.org/kids](http://sapctucson.org/kids). Thank you for supporting VBS—we could not do it without you!

**VBS REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!**

Registration is now open for Rainforest Falls VBS, June 8–12. Registration closes May 15, so be sure to secure your spot soon! You can register your child or sign up to volunteer by visiting: [sapctucson.org/kids](http://sapctucson.org/kids)



**SUPER FRIENDS: A SPECIAL NEEDS MINISTRY**

Our next meeting of Super Friends and parents will be May 3 at 10:30 am in the Sunday School rooms. For questions or to sign up, contact Heather at [hbrannock@sapctucson.org](mailto:hbrannock@sapctucson.org).

**HONORING OUR 5TH GRADERS**

We will honor our outgoing 5th graders during the Children's Message at the 9:00 am service on May 17.

Later that day, at 12:30 pm, 5th graders and their parents are invited to a 5th Grade Preview in the Boondocks on the NE campus. This will be a time for students to play games, eat pizza, and meet the youth leaders. Parents will also receive information about the upcoming youth program.

**4TH & 5TH GRADE COMMUNION MILESTONE**

On April 12, six fourth and fifth graders and their families participated in the Communion Milestone. Rev. Steven Akins shared about the Sacrament of Communion in the Presbyterian Church with the students and their parents. Everyone was then invited to partake in Communion—some for the very first time.

**HOLY MOLIES (4TH & 5TH GRADE)**

Our May Holy Molics will be Wednesday, May 20 from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm. We are looking for someone with a pool (or access to one) who would be willing to host our Pool Party and Potluck. If you are interested in hosting or would like more information, please contact Heather at [hbrannock@sapctucson.org](mailto:hbrannock@sapctucson.org).



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH: SUMMER WORSHIP**



Children of all ages are invited to Children's Church this summer during the 9:00 am service. This child-friendly worship service includes music, a Bible story, and fun activities.

Beginning May 24, children will start in the Sanctuary with their families and then be invited downstairs to Room F following the Children's Message.

Childcare will continue to be available in Room L for both the 9:00 am and 10:45 am services.

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

"It could be worse." While this may be true, it isn't helpful to compare your situation. It discounts your feelings and doesn't provide much comfort. Jesus wants to meet us where we're at, that means being honest with Him about what we're experiencing. A Stephen Minister would love to come alongside you during this time to listen, encourage, and pray for you; meetings are free and confidential. 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*

RICHARD "DICK" ELLIS  
FEBRUARY 15, 2026

RON CATE  
MARCH 24, 2026

NAOMI HARTLEY  
APRIL 9, 2026

KAREN EVANS  
APRIL 22, 2026

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

As of March 31, 2026	YTD Offering	YTD Expenses
<b>Actual</b>	\$ 535,939	\$ 526,287
<b>Planned</b>	\$ 509,547	\$ 601,451
<b>Difference</b>	\$ 26,392	\$ (75,164)

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



**EASTER 2026**