

CONNECTED

A PUBLICATION OF ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2026

COMING UP... AUGUST

- 3 Children's Place Closed: In-Service
- 3 Connecting Threads
- 4 Children's Place: 1st Day of School
- 5 Chess Club
- 5 Bridge
- 10 Connecting Threads
- 11 Building Blocks: 1st Day of Afterschool Program
- 12 Sewing Ministry
- 12 Chess Club
- 12 Bridge
- 13 Chancel Choir Kickoff Dinner & Rehearsal
- 16 Back to School Blessing
- 16 Faith Walk
- 16 Rutgers Street Grill
- 17 Connecting Threads
- 19 Chess Club
- 19 Bridge
- 24 Connecting Threads
- 25 Children's Choir/Family HomeGroup Kickoff
- 26 Sewing Ministry
- 26 Chess Club
- 26 Bridge
- 31 Connecting Threads
- 31 SOFA: 1st Day of Fall Classes



We would love for you and your family to join us for worship on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Following the worship service, you are invited to a self-guided Faith/Prayer Walk around our campus. We invite you to pray over the classrooms, the playground, and our gathering spaces. This is a meaningful and important opportunity to lift up our students, teachers, staff, and families as we ask for God's guidance, protection, and blessings throughout the school year. Everyone is invited for lunch at Rutgers Street Grill, where we will enjoy a meal. We hope you will join us for this special morning as we worship, pray, and celebrate our IC1M family!



Our God's Super Squad VBS was a super success! A huge thank you to every volunteer who suited up to serve, love, and share God's truth with our children. You were the real superheroes of the week, and because of your time, energy, and heart for ministry, our kids left knowing that God's power is the greatest superpower of all!



St. Andrew's is committed to deepening discipleship through meeting in small groups, or what we call HomeGroups. We would love for you to consider joining a HomeGroup if you are not yet involved in one. We believe it is important to walk in faith together, and the commitment to meet weekly or bi-monthly creates opportunities to read the Word and to share life in smaller groups. We are called to be disciples of Jesus and become the body of Christ. HomeGroup participation is one great way to take the next step!

Contact: Amy Smith at amy@sahouston.com



Rutgers Street Grill Is Back!

Join us every third Sunday of the month following worship for Rutgers Street Grill, hosted by St. Andrew's Church Life. Gather with friends, old and new, in the Warren Family Center for a delicious meal, meaningful fellowship, plenty of laughter, and a wonderful time building community together.

Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please contact [\[marybradley3@gmail.com\]](mailto:marybradley3@gmail.com) & [\[maryannmcglamery@gmail.com\]](mailto:maryannmcglamery@gmail.com). We can't wait to share a meal with you!

TUES SEPT 1 • 5:30PM - 7PM
DINNER PROVIDED



**FAMILY
WORSHIP NIGHT**

EMAIL:
AMY@SAHOUSTON.COM

GRIEF RETREAT

September 19 - Saturday
9:00 am- 12:00 pm
Session Room

Join Dr. Laura Orme on Saturday, September 19, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. for *As Christ Draws Near: A Compassionate Grief Encounter*, a three-hour retreat that blends the wisdom of psychology with the hope of the Christian faith. Through psychological education, centering prayer, mindfulness practice, and reflective exercises, participants will deepen their understanding of grief, honor the memory of loved ones, and encounter God's compassionate presence in the midst of loss.

Dr. Laura Orme, Ph.D., is a licensed psychologist specializing in grief, trauma, attachment, and relationship concerns. In her Bellaire private practice, she helps individuals and couples navigate life's challenges with compassion, evidence-based care, and hope. Dr. Orme and her family have been members of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for the past seven years, and she is honored to offer this retreat as an opportunity for healing, remembrance, and community.

amy@sahouston.com



CHILDREN'S CHOIR NEW & RETURNING FAMILIES WELCOME!

Children's Choir is back, and we can't wait to welcome new and returning elementary-aged singers! Join us every Tuesday beginning August 25, with dinner from 5:30–6:00 p.m. followed by choir rehearsal from 6:00–7:00 p.m. While the children rehearse in the Chapel, adults are invited to stay for a Bible Study in the Session Room. If your family is interested in joining, please contact Ms. Vasti and Ms. Amy for more information.

Contact: Vastiesahouston.com & Amy@sahouston.com

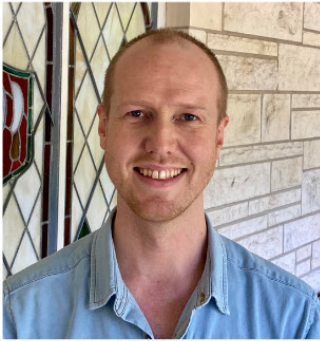
CHURCH



CHOIR KICKOFF DINNER & REHEARSAL

Whether you've been singing for years or are simply curious about joining, we'd love to welcome you to our Chancel Choir Kickoff Dinner on Thursday, August 13. Enjoy dinner from 6:00-7:00 p.m., followed by rehearsal from 7:00-8:30 p.m., as you meet fellow singers and experience what choir is all about. The Chancel Choir leads worship twice each month and during special church celebrations, with weekly rehearsals on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs choir room. Come share a meal, lift your voice, and consider becoming part of this meaningful ministry!

Contact: Mandy@sahouston.com — RSVP requested



CONGRATULATIONS, PAUL!

We are delighted to share that our choir accompanist and pianist, Paul, has received approval for his artist visa and will continue serving in our Music Ministry and teaching through SOFA for the next three years! We give thanks to God for this answered prayer and are grateful for Paul's gifts, faithful service, and the joy he brings to our church family. Please join us in celebrating this wonderful news!

EVERY MONDAY ROOM 211 - 11 AM

Love to stitch or want to learn? Join us for Connecting Threads, St. Andrew's needlepoint ministry! We meet upstairs in Room 214. Beginners will get simple prints to start with, and experienced stitchers can bring a project they're working on. Bring your lunch, enjoy great company, and help us create fun projects for the church!

Contact: Kelly Lewis at kelly@sahouston.com

CHURCH





ST. ANDREW'S CHESS CLUB

**EVERY
WEDNESDAY
NOON - RM 129**

Come be part of something new, fun, and engaging!

Whether you are a beginner, intermediate player, or a grandmaster, there is a place for you at the board. All ages and skill levels are welcome!

Come learn, play, and grow together in a friendly and encouraging environment.

Have questions or want more information?
Please email Jacks Kelly for any questions or inquiries.
jacks@sahouston.com

Join us for strategy, fellowship, and a little friendly competition. We would love to have you!



Contact: Carolyn Blakley at ssb2143@sbcglobal.net

WEDNESDAYS 1:30 PM SESSION ROOM

Join us every Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. for a fun, friendly game of

Bridge! All skill levels are welcome—whether you're a seasoned player or just learning.

It's a great chance to relax, share some laughs, and make new friends in a warm, welcoming environment.



WEDNESDAY AUG 12 & 26 10 AM ROOM 138

The Sewing Ministry is a dedicated group within our church that creates meaningful items for our congregation, including baptismal quilts, graduating senior laundry bags, and gift satchels for our Golden Members. If you love to sew or want to learn, we welcome you to join us in this heartfelt ministry to serve others and spread joy through the items we make.



Contact: Florine Carr at
ffcarr30@gmail.com



Volunteer Opportunities at 1 Campus 1 Ministry



Please sign up to be notified about fun, easy ways to engage with the parents, children and staff of Children's Place, Building Blocks and the School of Fine Arts! We want to make sure they truly feel part of the St. Andrew's community. Opportunities may include things such as attending a special event, helping serve refreshments or delivering teacher appreciation gifts, all with the goal of connection! This is also a great way for you to get to know these programs better, brought to you by your Outreach and Educational Outreach Committees. You can sign up for alerts here:

<https://tinyurl.com/lclmconnections>, by scanning the QR code or by emailing rennaehenry@gmail.com.



All-Church Missions Conference 2026

What is God doing in the world, and how do I fit in?



HOLD THE DATES!

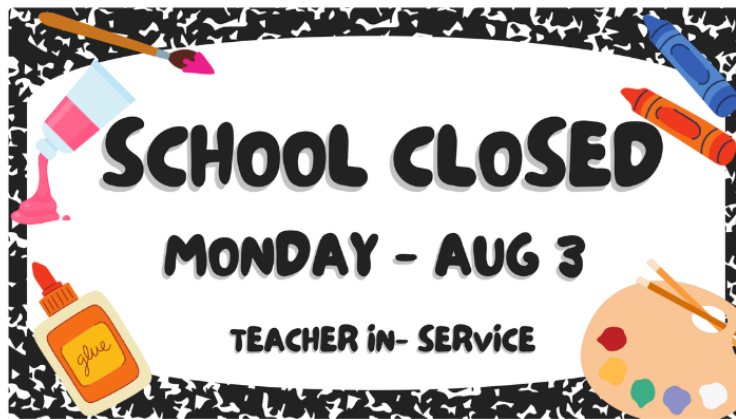
September 27, October 2, 3 & 4, 2026

Email: missions@sahouston.com with any questions

Missions Conference at St. Andrew's

Join us for our upcoming Missions Conference as we celebrate the incredible ways God is at work both around the world and right here in our own community. Throughout the conference, you'll hear inspiring stories from guest speakers representing mission partners we support and have opportunities to put your faith into action through local service projects. Whether you're passionate about missions or simply curious to learn more, there's a place for you. Stay tuned for more details

We can't wait to share what's in store!



Children's Place will be closed to all students on Monday, August 3, as our teachers prepare classrooms, complete training, and get everything ready to welcome your little ones for an exciting new school year. We can't wait to see everyone back for the first day of school, refreshed and ready for a wonderful year together!

The first day of the Fall Semester is Tuesday, August 4, and we are so excited to welcome our students and families back! We look forward to a wonderful year filled with learning, growing, making new friends, and discovering God's love each and every day.



Family Chapel is back, and we can't wait to welcome our children and families into the sanctuary once again!

Join us on the last Wednesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. as we worship together, grow in God's love, and celebrate faith as one church family. We look forward to seeing you there!



**Building
Blocks**

A ministry of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church



**READY TO ENROLL?
SCAN HERE!**

**\$485
per month**

**\$150
reg. fee**

AFTER SCHOOL



PROGRAM



PreK4– 8th Grade

What We Provide:

Group Tutoring
Snack
Structured Freeplay
Social Emotional Learning
Enrichment
Kid-loving & experienced tutors

Schools where we pick up:

Condit
Horn
Mark Twain
Roberts
West University Elementary
Lanier Middle School

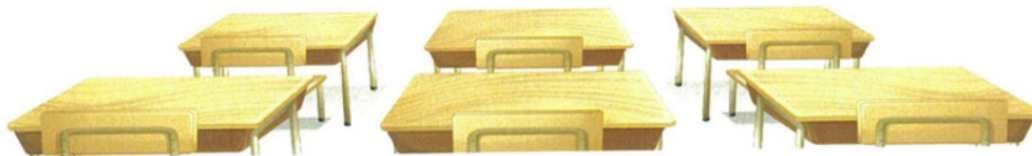
Inquiries:

rachel@sahouston.com



Website:

<https://www.sabuildingblocks.com>



BUILDING BLOCKS

Preschool Creative Arts Camp Recap — Peter and the Wolf



Our Preschool Creative Arts Campers had a joyful week bringing "Peter and the Wolf" to life — learning classical music and instrument families, exploring character movement through drama, and creating artwork for the set and to take home. Teachers noted how quickly the kids learned, how kind and cooperative they were with one another, and how much their personalities shined throughout the week!



Curious about introducing your little one to the joy of music? Musikgarten is offering demo classes throughout August, making it the perfect opportunity to explore the program before the Fall 2026 semester begins on August 31. Classes are held in Room 131.

To view the fall schedule or reserve a spot in a demo class, please contact SOFAAdmin@sahouston.com.



SOFA
SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS
A Ministry of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

GROUP CLASSES & PRIVATE LESSONS
ALL AGES

713-337-1211



Whether you're picking up an instrument for the first time or continuing your musical journey, SOFA has something for every age and stage! Fall enrollment is now open for private and group lessons in piano, voice, violin, cello, group piano, and group guitar (beginner and intermediate/advanced for ages 11 through adult). To learn more or submit a new student inquiry, visit www.sasofa.com or email sofaadmin@sahouston.com

WANT TO RESERVE A SPACE

If you would like to reserve a room for a meeting or event, please contact our Administrative Assistant, Melinda Garza, at melinda@sahouston.com. Melinda will follow up with you to assist in scheduling your space and confirming the details.



ST. ANDREW'S STAFF



LEADERS IN OUR CHURCH

SESSION LEADERSHIP 2026

✕
January 1, 2026

MINISTRY	ACTIVE ELDERS	TEAM LEAD
CHURCH LIFE <i>churchfamily@sahouston.com</i>	Heather Albrecht Mary Bradley MaryAnn McGlamery	Mary Bradley & MaryAnn McGlamery
FAMILY MINISTRY <i>youth@sahouston.com</i> <i>children@sahouston.com</i>	Natasha Erskine Andy Fitzpatrick Jaime Gonzalez Nancy Mendez	Andy Fitzpatrick
EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH <i>edoutreach@sahouston.com</i>	Rennae Henry Tami Mallett	Tami Mallett
FACILITIES <i>facilities@sahouston.com</i>	Mark Reid Winston Reid	Winston Reid
MISSIONS <i>missions@sahouston.com</i>	Bryan Gowen	Bryan Gowen
OUTREACH <i>outreach@sahouston.com</i>	Beverly Brownfield Julie Fitzgerald Gwen Smith	Beverly Brownfield
RESOURCES <i>resources@sahouston.com</i>	Reagan Brown Ron Stern	Mark Mallett
SPIRITUAL FORMATION <i>spiritualformation@sahouston.com</i>	Elaine Ecklund Bill Hargrove	Bill Hargrove
WORSHIP <i>worship@sahouston.com</i>	Anne Gill Alex Sardual	Alex Sardual
 CONGREGATIONAL NOMINATING COMMITTEE <i>nominating@sahouston.com</i>	Julie Fitzgerald Heather Albrecht	Julie Fitzgerald



Clerk – Aletha Evert, session@sahouston.com



Treasurer – Mark Mallett



Assistant Clerk – Bill Hargrove



Assistant Treasurer – Reagan Brown

TRUSTEES --

[2024] Rick Bott, Joyce Ramsey-Coleman

[2025] Sara Brinkmann, Karen Gerstner

[2026] Joanne Anders, Tim Griffith

CLERGY AND STAFF

Jeff Smith, Executive Pastor
Jim Gill, Parish Associate

jeff@sahouston.com
jim@sahouston.com

Mandy Kung, Director of Music
Byron Williams, Assistant Director of Music
Vasti Adkins, Children's Choir Director

mandy@sahouston.com
byron@sahouston.com
vastis@sahouston.com

Kelly Lewis, Head of Schools
Amy Smith, Director of Family Ministries
Isis Pinon, Director of Children's Ministries and PR Manager
Mandy Kung, Director of SOFA (School of Fine Arts)
Rachel Gowen, Director of Building Blocks

kelly@sahouston.com
amy@sahouston.com
isis@sahouston.com
SOFA@sahouston.com
rachel@sahouston.com

June DeBourgh-Scott, Campus Director
Jacks Kelly, Director of IT
Melinda Garza, Administrative Assistant
Juan Bravo, Facilities and Maintenance
Tad Valdez, Director of Safety
Maria S. Ibarra, Financial Gifts Admin Assistant
Beth Gowen, Financial Secretary

june@sahouston.com
jacks@sahouston.com
melinda@sahouston.com
juan@sahouston.com
tad@sahouston.com
maria@sahouston.com
beth@sahouston.com

CONTACT US



JOIN THE CHURCH

Amy Smith
amy@sahouston.com



FLOWER DEDICATION

Isis Pinon
isis@sahouston.com



PLAN A WEDDING

Kelly Lewis
kelly@sahouston.com



BABY ANNOUNCEMENT PREPARE FOR BAPTISM

Amy Smith
amy@sahouston.com

Make a donation • sahouston.com/giving

Planned giving • Maria S. Ibarra, maria@sahouston.com

Add a name to the prayer list • Amy Smith, amy@sahouston.com

Notify us of a death or illness • Amy Smith, amy@sahouston.com

Request a bulletin announcement • Isis Pinon, isis@sahouston.com

Request an announcement for the weekly email • info@sahouston.com

Update contact information in our database • Maria S. Ibarra, maria@sahouston.com