

CONNECTED

A PUBLICATION OF ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

JULY 2026

COMING UP...

JULY

- 3 Church Office Closed - Independence Day
- 3 Children's Place Closed - Independence Day
- 3 SOFA Closed - Independence Day
- 3 Building Blocks Closed - Independence Day
- 4 Independence Day
- 5 Summer Choir
- 6 Connecting Threads
- 8 Sewing Ministry
- 8 Chess Club
- 8 Bridge
- 13 Connecting Threads
- 13-17 SOFA: Creative Arts Camp
- 15 Chess Club
- 15 Bridge
- 20 Connecting Threads
- 22 Chess Club
- 22 Bridge
- 26 Reconnect Worship Night
- 27 Connecting Threads
- 27-31 Children's Place: VBS - God's Super Squad!
- 29 Sewing Ministry
- 29 Chess Club
- 29 Bridge



What an un-be-leaf-able week! Tropical Trek VBS was filled with laughter, worship, new friendships, and discovering God's love together. A huge thank you to our Houston Mission Week team and every volunteer who helped make the week so special for the children of Children's Place. We couldn't have done it without you!

RECONNECT

A SUMMER SERIES

**WHERE WORSHIP
DEEPENS
&
PRAYER BECOMES
PRACTICE**

*** SUNDAY NIGHTS
@6:30 PM
7/26**

MISSING GOD'S

What a wonderful start we've had to our Summer of Worship! We've loved gathering together for an evening of heartfelt worship, prayer, and community.

Join us on the last Sunday in July as we continue this meaningful summer series. Come experience a night where worship deepens, prayer becomes practice, and God's Word comes alive. We'll hear an encouraging message from Victor Harris.

Invite your friends, bring your family, and come expectant. We'd love to worship with you!



HomeGroups

Life in a world of existence

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

ages 2+

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SUMMER FUN SUNDAYS

STARTING JUNE 7

GAMES + ART + FUN
POPCORN + VEGGIETALES
WFC DURING WORSHIP
PICK-UP AT 11:00 AM IN WFC

SAME SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS YOU LOVE

QUESTIONS? EMAIL MS. ISIS @ ISIS@SAHOUSTON

NO GODLY PLAY OR LF356...
BUT DON'T WORRY
WE ARE STILL LEARNING ABOUT JESUS
DURING WORSHIP SERVICE STARTING AT
10 AM!

Summer Sundays just got even more fun! On your way to worship, stop by the Warren Family Center, where kids will enjoy a morning filled with arts and crafts, games, VeggieTales, friendship bracelet making, and, of course, popcorn!

Simply drop your children off before the worship service and pick them up immediately afterward. Childcare for children ages one and under will continue to be available in the Children's Ministry area. We're having an incredible summer making new friends, creating fun memories, and growing in God's love!



JOIN SUMMER CHOIR

The chancel choir would love for you to join us in singing some of our favorite anthems and hymns on the first Sunday of July (July 5th) and August (Aug. 2nd). If you're interested, please reach out to Mandy, and she'll provide all the materials you'll need. We'll meet in the chancel at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning. We hope you'll consider this chance to come together and enjoy worshipping and singing with this fun group. We think you'll really enjoy it!

Contact: Mandy at mandy@sahouston.com

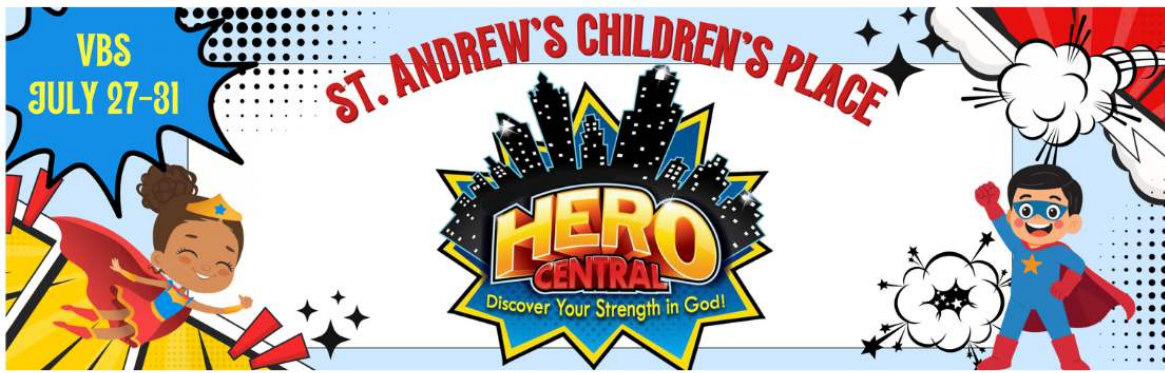


JOIN THE YOUTH WORSHIP TEAM THIS FALL!

Welcome to the Youth Worship Team (YWT)—a vibrant community where young musicians and vocalists are empowered to explore their talents through contemporary worship music. We meet every student exactly where they are. Whether you are a beginner or have years of experience, we offer foundational vocal and instrumental training while gently challenging you to step out of your comfort zone to try new things.

If you are interested in joining us this fall or just want to learn more, we would love to hear from you!

Please contact Mandy Kung (Mandy@sahouston.com) or Byron Williams (Byron@sahouston.com) to be a part of this amazing team.



VBS GOD SQUAD – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, and we'd love for you to be part of the fun! Whether you can volunteer for just an hour or stay for two, we'd be so grateful for your help!

- **Saturday 7/25- 10:30 am - 12:30 pm** – VBS decorating- Transform our school into a fun, faith-filled superhero world for VBS!
- **Mon 7/27-Fri 7/31- 9:30-10:30 a.m.** – Sing, dance, worship, and learn about God alongside our VBS kids during chapel!
- **Mon 7/27-Fri 7/31- 10:30-11:30 a.m.** – Stay to read stories, assist with arts and crafts, help during circle time, and encourage our young learners!

Email Ms. Isis with days/times you are able to volunteer! Ms. Isis will provide all volunteers with additional information, including VBS songs, dances, and everything you'll need to know before the week begins.

Contact: Ms. Isis at isisesahouston.com

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 JULY 8 & 29 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



**ST. ANDREW'S
PRESBYTERIAN**
ONE CAMPUS ONE MINISTRY
CHURCH • CHILDREN'S PLACE • BUILDING BLOCKS • SOFA



Strengthening our 1 Campus 1 Ministry Connections

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/lc1mconnections>, by scanning the QR code or by emailing rennaehenry@gmail.com.



Projects & Events



Use this QR code to learn about
CCSC Off-site Projects

Food Drive

Food drives—no matter how large or small—are a great way to help our hungry neighbors.

Clothing Drive

Ongoing needs include men's items in all sizes, especially pants and shoes, and children's items in all sizes.

No-Sew Blankets

Help individuals and families keep warm by creating no-sew blankets. Adult sizes are especially needed.

Hygiene Kits

Emergency Services clients often need hygiene items, such as shampoo and toothpaste. Collect and compile basic hygiene kits in Ziploc bags.

Can Opener Drive

Many people need a can opener to be able to eat the food they receive from the Food Pantry.

Rice & Beans

Dried rice and beans are more economical in large quantities. We give 2-pound bags to our clients so we need help creating smaller bags.

Feeding Hunger, Fostering Hope, Furthering Success

MISSIONS



Join us for an action-packed week as we discover that the greatest superpower of all is God's love and grace! Through exciting Bible stories, fun crafts, music, games, and hands-on activities, children will learn how God equips each of us to be part of His amazing team.

Throughout the week, our little heroes will explore how they can:

- Show God's love to others
- Be kind and courageous
- Help those in need
- Trust God in every situation
- Shine God's light wherever they go

We can't wait for another fun-filled week of Vacation Bible School at Children's Place as we suit up and join God's Super Squad! Stay tuned for more details, special activities, and ways to join the adventure!

"Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power." – Ephesians 6:10

PREK3-
MIDDLE
SCHOOL



JUNE 8-
AUGUST 7

EXTENDED DAY
\$400/WEEK

DAY CAMP
\$350/WEEK

BUILDING BLOCKS

STEM SUMMER CAMPS



7 am
to
6 pm

STEM Summer Camps are off to an amazing start! Campers have learned about Animals, the World Cup and the Lone Star State. Each week, we focus on a new theme while proving engaging academic lessons, enrichment opportunities, leadership development games and activities and more. Contact the Director if you are interested in learning more or scan the QR code if you are interested in learning more.

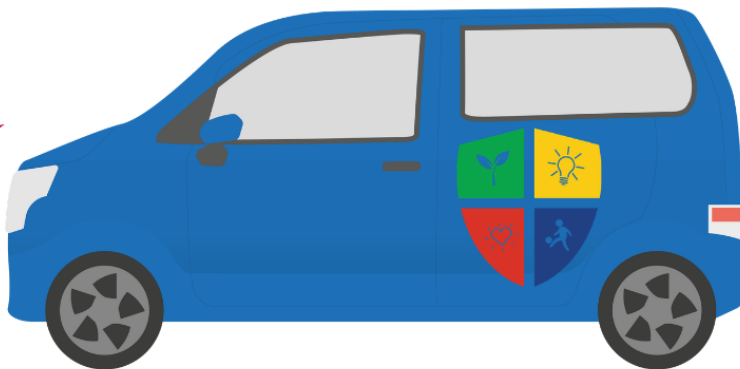
What to expect each week:

- Hands on STEM lessons + activities
- Weekly Experiments
- Engaging Enrichment activities (art, cooking, dance, music, group games, etc.)
- Social Emotional Learning lessons + games
- Leadership Development lessons + games
- Reliable, energetic, passionate and kid-loving camp counselors
- On campus (every week) and off campus (occasional) Friday Field Trips and more!

Contact: rachelesahouston.com

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

SIGN UP
TODAY!



If you are interested in learning more about Building Blocks' 2026-2027 After School Program, please email the director at rachelesahouston.com.

Schools we pick up from:

- Condit
- Horn
- Mark Twain
- Roberts
- West University
- Lanier Middle School

Time:

2:45-6pm Monday-Friday

Occasional Day Camps offered when HISD is out.



READY TO ENROLL?
SCAN HERE!

BUILDING BLOCKS

Guitar Student Community Concert

When: Tuesday, July 7 | 6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Where: Session Room



Join us for a delightful, interactive classical guitar recital and light reception. Celebrate our talented student ensembles from Bellaire High School, the School of Science and Technology, and the Summer Guitar Conservatory as they showcase their hard work!

Contact: sofa@sahouston.com

JOIN OUR
**PRESCHOOL
CREATIVE ARTS
CAMP**

PETER AND THE WOLF

MUSIC ART DRAMA

9am to 3pm Ages 3 ½ to 6 ½
JULY 13-17, 2026

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church | 5308 Buffalo Speedway

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

20 26
JUL 27 to 31

Piano
CAMP

Open to beginner and intermediate elementary and middle school pianists. Our week-long camp builds skill, confidence, and creativity in a fun, supportive environment.

When: Monday - Friday, July 27-31

Mon - Thu: 9:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Friday: 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Friday Showcase at 12:00 p.m.)

Where to Meet: St. Andrew's Piano Lab

Registration: Early Registration Deadline is June 24;

Registration will remain open through July 17 until capacity is reached.



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

GROUP CLASSES & PRIVATE LESSONS

ALL AGES

713-337-1211



Summer programming is in full swing through mid-August! Adults looking to learn or refine violin, cello, guitar, voice, or piano are welcome to join us. We also offer vibrant camps, specialized group classes (infants to age 5), and personalized private lessons. Sharpen your skills or try a new instrument in an encouraging, Christ-centered environment. Contact SOFAAdmin@sahouston.com or submit an inquiry form on our website: www.sahouston.com/sofa

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

Clerk – Aletha Evert, session@sahouston.com
Treasurer – Mark Mallett

Assistant Clerk – Bill Hargrove
Assistant Treasurer – TBD

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
vastiesahouston.com

Kelly Lewis, Director of Ministries
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)
Claire Mello, Director of Children's Place
Rachel Gowen, Director of Building Blocks

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SOFA@sahouston.com
claire@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

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maria@sahouston.com
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CONTACT US



JOIN THE CHURCH

Amy Smith
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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