



# St. Andrews Center

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[www.st-andrewscenter.org](http://www.st-andrewscenter.org)

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## St. Andrews Center to acquire building

We are very pleased to announce that the board of directors of St. Andrews Center and the board of trustees of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church have reached an agreement for the transfer of ownership of the former St. Andrews church building to St. Andrews Center.

Our board, staff and building partners thank our friends for your prayers of support. We are blessed to continue serving our mission in this building located in the vibrant Highland Park community where people from all walks of life come together in a safe, encouraging and supportive environment to experience community.

We are looking toward a bright and thriving New Year with abundant opportunities to expand our programming and continue our efforts toward facilitating projects to make the building shine. Please join us at this exciting time by offering your help either as a



St. Andrews Center

volunteer or in group mission work. Come by to see us at the Center. Our staff would be delighted to have the opportunity to share more about the building.

### Welcome, Rev. Betsy Flory

Rev. Betsy Flory joins us on staff as the coordinator for the Food and Faith Initiative. She will oversee the Gleaning Project, the Community Garden, and Hartnell Farm.



Rev. Betsy Flory

Rev. Flory comes to the position after years of preaching and teaching in all kinds of settings from tiny Korean churches to a five-state conference position with her denomination. She began to feel God was calling her to environmental ministries, though at the time she wasn't sure what that was.

She describes her position at St. Andrews Center as her dream job and is very excited by the opportunities she sees to serve both the needs of humans in the community and the ailing and broken earth. Rev. Flory sees these ministries as inextricably entwined, since wherever there is environmental degradation human well-being is harmed too, usually affecting the most vulnerable first. She sees healing the broken earth as a way to fulfill Jesus' command to love "the least ones." We welcome Rev. Flory to our ministry.

### Subscribe to our e-newsletter

Send an e-mail to [admin@st-andrewscenter.org](mailto:admin@st-andrewscenter.org) to subscribe.

### Use of land gift celebrates McConnell family heritage

St. Andrews Center has been given an extraordinary gift of the use of Hartnell Farm property in Hixson. The McConnell family has done this to continue the gift of service to community which was so important to their parents. In that spirit our ultimate goal is to create an environmental education and retreat center, using organic food production and traditional spiritual disciplines to educate the community about sustainability. When the farm is once again in production it will contribute to the local Food Bank, either through a tithe of produce or through participation in the Gleaning Project.

Along with retreat and youth programming on the farm, St. Andrews Center will sponsor events for families to get outdoors and experience the beauty of creation. We are very excited by the possibilities this gift presents us and we are grateful to the McConnells for their generosity.

### Call for Volunteers

St. Andrews Center needs many hands to help in our Arts Academy, gardens, office, and around the building. Call us at 423-629-9872 or e-mail [admin@st-andrewscenter.org](mailto:admin@st-andrewscenter.org).

## **Lyndhurst provides warmth and welcome to St. Andrews Center**

Our holidays have an additional cause for joy as we ring in the new year with news about a Lyndhurst Foundation grant awarded to St. Andrews Center to replace the old boiler used to provide heat to the building. On New Years Eve of 2009, the forty-plus year old boiler caught fire putting a chilly halt to its service. In addition to warmth, the grant funds will facilitate building refurbishment projects that will continue the legacy of making St. Andrews Center a warm, friendly, and safe environment. The St. Andrews Center board, staff, partners, volunteers and patrons are very thankful for support provided by Lyndhurst Foundation.

## **Allied Arts grant boosts Academy**

St. Andrews Center has been awarded funding from the Arts Build Communities (ABC) Grant through Allied Arts to support teaching artists. Jerry Allen, visual arts instructor, has over 20 years experience teaching in our community. Mr. Allen offers painting and drawing classes as well as teaching the students how to mix paint color and utilize light, shadow, and weight. History is the base of the Arts Academy's visual art program this year, with an emphasis on Mayan culture. The Arts Academy is very grateful for the partnership provided through Allied Arts.

ABC Grant is a program funded by Tennessee General Assembly and administered in cooperation with Tennessee Arts Commission and Allied Arts of Greater Chattanooga.

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## **Students learn engineering through robotics**

Students in the Arts Academy are blessed with a unique opportunity to build and program functions of robots in the Robotics program provided through Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). The main goal of the Robotics program is to raise interest in mathematics, science and engineering. Classes are spent following a blueprint that shows students how each robot is constructed. Putting robots together one piece at a time, students learn to follow schematics while practicing skills in problem solving and predicting.

Jennifer Kish, Director of the Arts Academy said "Our students have no previous knowledge of robotics nor of programming robots, but they quickly pick up on the skills necessary to be successful robot engineers while learning new concepts in science and math."

To learn more about ways to support St. Andrews Center programming, contact Michelle Hayes at 423-629-9872.

## **McCallie hosts Christmas Party for Arts Academy**

McCallie School hosted a fabulous Christmas party for the St. Andrews Arts Academy on December 9th. The Arts Academy students were overwhelmed with love, toys, games and books. Each child was given a winter coat, hat, gloves and scarf. Cookies, cakes, chips, lemonade, hot chocolate and candy were on the menu. Lynn Goss, Principal of McCallie Middle School and organizer of the event, was assisted by about 60 McCallie and GPS students. The Arts Academy children had a great time and the next day East Side Elementary was buzzing with about what a fabulous party it was.

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