

Acolyte Training

101

for rising 3rd graders
and above!



St. Andrews Presbyterian Church
Tucker, Ga

www.standrewspresbyterian.org



Acolyting at St. Andrews

The word *acolyte* is from an ancient Greek word that means attendant, or “follower”.

Light and fire remind us that God is here with us. When you bring the light (fire) into the sanctuary where people are gathering to worship, and when you light the candles, you are reminding the people that God is with us at home, at school, and at work as well as in the worship service.

When you light the torch again, before extinguishing the candles, and then walk out with your torch lit, you remind the people what when we scatter out into the world, God will be there with us. Lit candles also remind us that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world.

Who gets to be an acolyte?

Here at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, all rising 3rd graders up to seniors in high school are encouraged to serve as acolytes. Acolytes are scheduled to serve on a rotating basis.

A schedule will be made every 3 months. The schedule will be emailed to you and your parents. If you need to switch, please call another person on the contact list and notify the church office, so their name can be in the bulletin. (770) 938-2833.
office@standrewspresbyterian.org

An email reminder will be sent out weekly if you are scheduled to serve as an acolyte for the upcoming Sunday. These email reminders are sent out on Wednesdays before the Sunday service.

Only 1 acolyte will be assigned each week.

Before the service:

- Wear appropriate shoes (no flip flops). No gum. You are worship leaders, along with Ushers, Greeters, Choir members and Pastors. You don't see any one of these people chewing gum, and you don't need to either.
- Be at church on your Sunday 15 minutes prior to worship, ready to serve. Allow enough time to put on the acolyte robe and tie rope properly.

At the beginning of the service:

- Use the torch with the fixed bell. An adult will light the torch for you.
- Wait until the announcements are finished before starting down the aisle.
- Carry the torch carefully and responsibly.
- Walk **SLOWLY** and confidently, knowing you are a worship leader. Make sure you have the wick of the torch out far enough so it won't go out as you walk down the aisle. Again, another reason to walk slowly.
- Light the candle on the **right first, then the left**, before putting out the torch and walking back down the aisle.
- Return the torch to its safe resting spot in the closet in the Narthex.
- If you would like, you can wear your robe during the worship service. If not, take off the acolyte robe and rope and hang both up neatly in the closet in the Narthex.

At the end of the service:

- Go to the back of the Narthex during the last hymn to get ready/redress in the robe and rope.
- Use the torch with the chain hung bell.
- Wait until the pastors have walked out of the sanctuary, before starting down the aisle.
- Go to the candle on the **left first**, lighting the torch, then putting out that candle with the bell. You may need to count to 5 slowly to make sure the flame is out.
- Put out the candle on the **right** and then walk carefully and **SLOWLY** back down the aisle with the lit torch. Do not extinguish the torch until you are out of the sanctuary. Remember, you are carrying the Light of Christ into the world.
- Return the torch to its safe resting spot in the closet in the Narthex and hang the robe and rope back up neatly.

Thank you for your part in leading worship!
The worship service begins and ends with you!