

**ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE
LIFE OF THE CHURCH**

In December, we would like everyone to send thank you notes in appreciation of **Dan Walden** as our Director of Youth and Children's Ministries for all the work he does with children, youth, communications and much more. You may send cards directly to Dan or to the church office:

First Presbyterian Church
1169 Clark Street SW
Covington, GA 30014

Be sure to mark it:
"Attn: Dan Walden Thank You!" We have been recognizing each of our staff throughout the year. Their dedication and commitment to our congregation and the wider community are deeply appreciated.



Loss in Our Lives, Hope in Our Hearts is a FREE 3-part workshop exploring ways we can honor the experience of our grief while holding onto hope in our hearts during this holiday season. Everyone experiences loss...loss of a loved one; loss of a dream; loss of a job, relationship, money, a pet, the predictability of our lives. Frequently the pain of these losses is magnified at this time of year. You are invited to this workshop. There are flyers on the narthex table that tell about the details of time and place. **Dr. Cindy Elrod**, whom you may have met, is the presenter. The series begins on Sunday, December 6.



Don't forget your donations for the **Food Pantry!** When you shop, pick up a few extras for your neighbors in need. **Suggestions for December are cake and brownie mixes.**

This Week at FPC

**Sunday, December 6
Advent 2**

9:00 Handbell Choir
9:30 Children's Choir
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
5:30 Christmas Joy Dinner

Monday, December 7

6:30 ELC Christmas Program

Tuesday, December 8

4:00 Exercise

Wednesday, December 9

6:45 Choir Rehearsal at Epiphany Lutheran

Thursday, December 10

9:30 Ambassador Choir
12:00 Silver Saints & Ambassador Choir Christmas Lunch & Party

**Sunday, December 14
Advent 3**

9:30 Children's Choir
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
12:00 Session Meeting
5:00 Youth Connection Christmas Party

**WELCOME TO
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF COVINGTON**

If you would like information about membership or the programs, mission, and fellowship of the church, speak to the pastor as you leave or call the church office at 770-786-7321.

E-mail:

Pastor, Billy Wade: wbwade75@gmail.com

Dan Walden: djwalden@mac.com

Church Office/Peni Haug: penihaug@gmail.com

Website: www.fpccov.org

Mailing Address: 1169 Clark Street, SW
Covington, Georgia 30014

You may listen to recent sermons by visiting our website (www.fpccov.org) and clicking on "Media."



Pledge Update: To date we have received 80 pledges for a total of \$357,242. Last year we had 92 pledges for a total of \$408,764. The session will begin the budget process for 2016 soon. If you have not made a commitment for 2016, please prayerfully consider doing so. Just drop your commitment card in the offering plate or mail it to the church. There are extra cards in the narthex if you need one. Or call the church office and Peni will be glad to mail one to you. (770-786-7321)

THANKS TO THOSE SERVING US TODAY

Nursery Volunteers today:
Shaun and Aubrey Evans

Next Week:
Trista Hooten-Wilson

December Usher Chair:
Adriane Ivey

Sound Engineer:
Ken Walker

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2015

Gary Boteler
Billy Fortson
Jan Giles
Jim Stillerman
Bob Tabb
Fletcher Stamps
Jack Weesner

Class of 2016

Charles Ardis
Joyce Ashworth
Betty Bailey
Patrick Carmichael
Perri Walden

Class of 2017

Baxter Bouchillon
Adriane Ivey
Michael Thompson
Danny Vining
Jean Wolverton

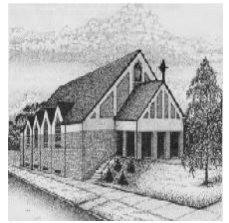
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

William B. Wade, Jr.	<i>Pastor</i>	Alice Walker	<i>CAGO, AAGO</i>
Dan Walden	<i>Director of Youth and Children's Ministry</i>	Maria Serrato, Aubrey Evans	<i>Nursery</i>
Peni Haug	<i>Secretary-Treasurer</i>	Kara Sugg	<i>Interim Director of the Early Learning Center</i>
Alan Bunn	<i>Music Director</i>		



**Second Sunday
of Advent**

December 6, 2015



Art for the Advent Season is by the artists of children's Sunday school and Adventure Club

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* John Carter
Glorious Is Thy Name Mozart/McKinney
Be Thou My Vision Ed Hogan
Gabrielle Howes, cello Alice Walker, piano

INTROIT *Prepare the Way, O Zion* BEREDEN VAG FOR HERRAN
Ambassador and Sanctuary Choirs

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE
Sarah Jane, Jackson, Jefferson, Karen and Sam Moss,
Phyllis and Jack Yoder

The season of Advent continues. We join with a hopeful throng in the lighting of the Advent candles, symbols of our faith and signs of God's love.

We are people of hope. Hope lives and abounds in us.

Today we light the candle of peace.

This light must brave the darkness.

In an age when people seldom find peace within themselves, and when all the earth stands under threat of war, we light a fire called peace.

Peace that is not merely the absence of conflict but peace that is the fullness of blessing for all, that is the peace for which we dare to hope.

Christ comes to bring peace to those who have been separated from God and one another.

In the name of that Child born so long ago, we light the candle of peace.

May this candle of peace give light to the world.

I now light the candle of peace.

Let us pray: Almighty God, prepare our hearts, that the dear Christ may enter in and be born in us. Grant us his peace which passes our understanding; for we pray in your name. Amen.

✦HYMN 82 *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* HYFRYDOL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, we confess that we often are deaf to the good tidings around us. We are weighed down by the pace and the demands of the season. Help us to reflect on your great love in the gift of Jesus to this weary world, and to us; for we pray in Jesus' holy name.

(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

ST. LOUIS

Hymn 121, stanza 3

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

TRURO

Hymn 93, stanza 3

Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me thy inner presence feel; thy grace and love in me reveal.

✦THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM

I Hear the Prophet Callin'

Pepper Choplin

Ambassador and Sanctuary Choirs

I hear the prophet callin', "Prepare the way of the Lord."

Come and make straight the way in the desert,

A highway for our God. Prepare the way of the Lord.

I hear Isaiah callin', "Fear not, your God will come."

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened.

The ears of the deaf will hear. And the mute will shout for joy,

They'll be shouting for joy!

And the desert will be joyful, and blossom as a rose.

We shall rejoice with joy and singing, and see the glory of God.

I hear the prophet callin', "Prepare the way of the Lord."

THE WORD FOR CHILDREN

All the children are invited to come forward for the Word for Children. Afterward, children kindergarten and younger may go to children's activities downstairs.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Malachi 3:1-4

Luke 3:1-14

SERMON

Preparing the Way

William B. Wade, Jr.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦HYMN 105, stanzas 1 & 5 *People, Look East* BESANÇON

✦AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

p. 35 in front of hymnal

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

p. 35 in front of hymnal

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY

J. S. Bach

Suite No. 1 in G Major for Unaccompanied Violoncello, "Allemande"

Gabrielle Howes, cello

✦DOXOLOGY (Hymn 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✦PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, mold our minds, hearts and spirits to embody the love which became flesh and comes among us again and again.

Help us all our lives to proclaim tidings of great joy to all people; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦HYMN 129, stanza 1

ES IST EIN' ROS'

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

✦CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦CHORAL RESPONSE

BEREDAN VAG FOR HERRAN

Prepare the Way, O Zion

Ambassador and Sanctuary Choirs

✦POSTLUDE *Piece d'Orgue, "Gravement," BWV 572*

J. S. Bach

✦Please stand if you are able.



Worship Notes

✦**Dan Walden**, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, is assisting with the leading of worship today.

✦We welcome to our service this morning **Gabrielle Howes**, who will play cello for the Prelude and Offertory. Gabrielle, a native of Kennesaw, is a Sophomore at Oxford College.

✦Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship God. Remember to **turn on your cell phones** again when you leave.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

†Dana Hall-broken wrist

†Wally Bold - pneumonia (great-uncle of Lori Ardis)

†Tommy Lee McCurdy-hospice care (cousin of Guy McGiboney)

†Lecia Landolt-chemo for pancreatic cancer (friend of Patti Lanford)

†James Knight-congestive heart failure and complications-Eastside Hospital (Darcel Tabb's father)

†Vickie Sewell-breathing difficulties

†Gina Marasco-pregnancy complications (cousin of Danielle Schubert)

†Deborah Jones-surgery (Reed Blakeney's daughter)

†Ursula Kaminski-home

†Lucille Brown-broken Leg/hip, surgery (mother of Sherri Bolton)

†Wilbur Fisher-meningitis, former Newton High coach

†Kim Bailey-Bicycle accident

(Bernice Bailey's daughter-in-law)

†Ann Hill-ovarian cancer (Theodosia Wade's cousin)

†Mickey Humphries-nursing care in Virginia (Tootles Tingler's sister)

†Mitchell Jessup -cancer (father of Nick Jessup)

†Phyllis Pruner-severe neck pain

†Sharon Walton-chemotherapy for kidney cancer (friend of Patti Lanford)

†Sophia Hawley-Cystic Fibrosis

†John Fish-cancer (Bryson Wade's uncle)

††Amanda Teixeira-heart surgery (Lynn Miller's daughter)

†Roger Gossage-awaiting transplant

††Catherine Horton-hospice care (sister of Maxine Blankenship)

†Edie Chandler Lowe-radiation

†Jan Coulon-home

†Jim Stalvey, Jr.-melanoma

†Penny Hill-cancer (Executive Presbyter for the Greater Atlanta Presbytery)

†Lisa Baker-cancer treatment

†Anderson Krieger-continuing treatment for leukemia (7th grade student at Providence Christian School.)

Assisted Living/Nursing Homes:

†Russ Cole -The Magnolias, Conyers

†Jeanne Cannon-Darien, GA

Riverside

†Joy Knight -hospice care

†Martha Borders

†Rita Harrell

Benton House

†George Stamps (temporarily at Riverside)

†Doris Mote

Merryvale

†Guy McGiboney

†Bill Taylor

†Elizabeth Gadilhe

†Betty Robinson

†J. L. Johnson

Hospital Visitor: Jean Wolverton