

ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

The Newton County Youth Strings (NCYS) program was started in the fall of 2014, under the direction of Erin Cassel, Artistic Director and Cello Instructor, and Violin and Viola Instructor, Rebecca Floyd. Private Suzuki lessons are offered beginning at age 4. A small strings quartet has been meeting at our church weekly to rehearse. **Today at 3:00 p.m.**, the Arts Association will host its first NCYS Strings Recital in our sanctuary for the 5 cello students and the 7 violin students who have studied with these instructors for the 2014-15 school year. Later in May, the string quartet will do a short performance on the square.

Mother's Day is May 10th. Let our donations of diapers and baby wipes given to **Baby Love** say we remember those mothers with babies struggling to obtain basic needs for their families. We all have our traditional ways to celebrate this day and this year we have the opportunity to share with mothers we don't know. Donations of diapers and wipes can be placed in the narthex. Your gift will be appreciated.

Some might find it convenient to make a donation of money to the church. Please indicate the recipient to be Baby Love. Purchases of diapers and wipes will be made for you.

FPC continues to be a great mission church. May we all have a Happy Mother's Day.

Speaking of Mother's Day: One of the special offerings we collect each year is for Presbyterian Homes **Caring Hands Fund** and takes place on Mother's Day. This fund augments income for older residents that have lost or outlived their financial resources. They enable these folks to continue living at Presbyterian Homes and helped with skilled nursing care. For the next 2 weeks a brochure telling about Caring Hands and an offering envelope will be in your bulletin. Give as your heart leads!

First Quarter Statements for those who pledge are in the narthex on the ushers' table. Please pick up your statement if you pledge.

Email Address Update: If you have not already changed the e-mail addresses for Billy Wade and Peni Haug, please do so this week. Our old internet service will expire on April 30. The new ones are:
Billy: wbwade75@gmail.com; **Peni:** penihaug@gmail.com.

This Week at FPC

Sunday, April 26

9:00 Handbell Choir
9:30 Children's Choir
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Youth Day Worship Service
3:00 Arts Association Youth Strings Recital at FPC

Tuesday, April 28

4:00 Exercise

Wednesday, April 29

4:00 Adventure Club
6:45 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, April 30

10:30 Ambassador Choir
(Last day for our old internet service provider - see not above! Thanks)

Sunday, May 3

9:00 Handbell Choir
9:30 Children's Choir
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
5:00 Parents' Meeting (for parents of children of all ages)

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 one of the pastors 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



Food Pantry Needs

Bring donations to the church or drop them off at the Community Food Pantry from 9:00-11:00 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday. Call (770) 784-0037 for directions. **Special requests for April:** canned fruits; you may bring other staple goods as your heart leads.

Baby Love: The Witness Team has an on-going project to collect disposable baby diapers and wipes to distribute to local agencies to help families in need. You may place your donations in the receptacle here at the church and the donations will be delivered. Monetary donations are also accepted. Your donation by check, or cash in an envelope with your name will be credited to your offering statement.

THANKS TO THOSE SERVING US TODAY

Nursery Volunteers today:

Nina Giles

Next Week:

Baxter & Lisa Bouchillon Family

April Usher Chair:

Joyce Ashworth

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
Adrian Ivey
Michael Thompson
Danny Vining
Jean Wolverton

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

William B. Wade, Jr.
Dan Walden

Pastor

Director of Youth and Children's Ministry

Peni Haug
Alan Bunn

Secretary-Treasurer
Music Director

Alice Walker

CAGO, AAGO

Organist/Ambassador Choir

Pauleen Green & Maria Serrato

Nursery

Tiffany McWaters
Director of the Early Learning Center



**Fourth Sunday
of Easter
Youth Sunday
April 26, 2015**



Order of Worship GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *Festive Trumpet Tune* David German
In Heavenly Love Abiding James Pethel
O Lamb of God, I Come Tunes: ST. CRISPIN, WOODWORTH

INTROIT O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME
O God, You Search Me (Psalm 139) Sanctuary Choir
O God, you search me and you know me.
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.
When I walk or lie down you are before me:
Ever the maker and keeper of my days.

✦ **CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 95:1-2 Sarah Moss
O come, let us sing to the Lord;
Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;
Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!
Amen.

✦ **HYMN 23** PLEADING SAVIOR
God, You Spin the Whirling Planets

CALL TO CONFESSION Koen Ardis
If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Together let us confess our sins.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Forgive us, Good Lord, for what we waited to do until it was too late, for what we mistakenly did before we thought twice, for what we were able to do because we ceased to see others as persons, for what we were unable to do because we failed to see our own possibilities, for what we pretended we could control when we should have stood in awe, for what we feared, which should have been belittled and overcome. Make us new so that we may begin anew.
(pause for silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all our sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **AMEN.**

✦RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS

Hymn 37, verse 1

**Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving,
To God our Creator triumphantly raise;
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
By guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us; pure light goes before us,
A pillar of light shining forth in the night:
Till shadows have vanished, all fearfulness banished,
As forward we travel from light into light.**

✦THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of Christ's peace.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *The Handiwork of God* Mark A. Miller

Youth Choir

*Stitched together piece by piece,
Sewn with purpose and with care
Scraps once thought to have no worth
Now become a sacred treasure*

*A quilt of love made by holy hands,
Ev'ry pattern known by heart
Stitched together by the sewer of our souls,
A quilt of love a work of art
We're the handiwork of God*

*Gathered here in this holy hour,
Hearts are full of pain and glory.
Quilt the threads of this kinship up
Into your unfolding story*

*When we've come apart
When we've been torn
When the fabric of our lives is frayed and worn,
Mend us up, loving friend,
Let your creative touch heal again*

*All the colors, each design,
All the living of these days,
Ev'ry blessing a gift from God,
And all creation sings its praise!*

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 Brigham Arnold

O God, your word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Send your Spirit to us to help us understand how to be Jesus' followers. **AMEN.**

SCRIPTURE READING Genesis 1 Sophia Hawley

SERMON *Imago Dei: Image of God* Jake McCarthy

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦HYMN 157 *I Danced in the Morning* SIMPLE GIFTS

✦AFFIRMATION OF FAITH Connor Jessup

from *A Brief Statement of Faith*

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER p. 35 in front of hymnal

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY Charles Callahan

"Reflection on LASST UNS ERFREUEN"

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE Hymn 31, verse 1

**Let us with a gladsome mind praise the Lord who is so kind:
for God's mercies shall endure, ever faithful, ever sure.**

✦PRAYER OF DEDICATION Rebecca Arnold

Gracious Lord, you have blessed us with gifts too many to count. Help us respond to your goodness. Enable us to live our lives as gifts to you, seeking your will and your help through all that life brings us. In Christ's name we pray, AMEN.

*BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD
INTO THE WORLD*

✦HYMN 546 SICILIAN MARINERS

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

✦CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

✦CHORAL RESPONSE O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME

O God, You Search Me (Psalm 139)

Sanctuary Choir

*For you created me and shaped me,
Gave me life within my mother's womb.
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:
Safe in your hands, all creation is made new.*

✦POSTLUDE *You Shall Go Out With Joy!* Douglas E. Wagner

✦Please stand if you are able.

<i>Worship Notes</i>	
✦ Youth Connection participants are leading worship today for Youth Sunday.	
✦ Today's <i>Prayer of Confession</i> was written by C. Eric Mount, Jr.	
✦ 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.	
<i>In Our Thoughts and Prayers</i>	
† Nancy Drive-diagnosed with ALS (sister of Penny Blakeney)	† Anderson Krieger-maintenance chemotherapy (6th grade student at Providence Christian School.)
† BJ Luna-2 adult sons died of unrelated illnesses (she is school nurse at the Theme School)	Assisted Living/Nursing Homes:
† Velma Prescott-home	† Russ Cole -The Magnolias, Conyers
† Amanda Teixeira-heart surgery (Lynn Miller's daughter)	† Gretchen Buendia-Parkwood Rehabilitation Center, Snellville
† Roger Gossage-awaiting transplant	Riverside
† Joy Knight -hospice care at Riverside	† Joy Knight -hospice care
† Billy Richardson-cancer (cousin of Ed Perkerson)	† Martha Borders
† Bill Miller-stroke (Beth Vinings' brother)	† Rita Harrell
† Catherine Horton-ill (sister of Maxine Blankenship)	Benton House
† Darris Burrell-home	† George Stamps
† Edie Chandler Lowe-chemotherapy	† Doris Mote
† Ann Bouchillon-home	Merryvale
† Howard Barton -rehab in Social Circle	† Guy McGiboney
† Jan Coulon-home	† Bill Taylor
† David Sewell-knee replacement, home	† Elizabeth Gadilhe
† Jim Stalvey, Jr.-melanoma	† Betty Robinson
† Penny Hill-cancer (Executive Presbyterian for the Greater Atlanta Presbytery)	Hospital Visitor: Jean Wolverton
† Don Bollinger-home	
† Bill Waterson-cancer (neighbor of Bernice & Betty Bailey)	
† Lisa Baker-cancer treatment	
† Lucy Johnson-cancer (friend of the Liems)	

