

Ongoing Activities in the Life of the Church

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 11
Third Sunday of Advent
 10:00 Sunday School
 11:00 Worship Service
 5:30 Christmas Joy Dinner and Music
Angel Tree Gifts Due

Tuesday, December 13
 Exercise Class

Wednesday, December 14
 6:45 Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, December 15
 10:30 Ambassador Choir
 11:30 Saints/Ambassador Choir Lunch and Gift Exchange

Friday, December 16
 1:00-6:00 Blood Drive

Saturday, December 17
 8:00 Men's Breakfast Study
 Bring your breakfast and a friend!

Sunday, December 18
Fourth Sunday of Advent
 10:00 Sunday School
 11:00 Worship Service
Festival of Lessons and Carols
 12:00 Session Meeting
 5:00 Youth Connection Goes Christmas Caroling

The Silver Saints and the Ambassador Choir will have their annual Christmas party on **Thursday, December 15th**, in the fellowship hall. The meal will be served at 11:30 a.m. and the gift exchange will follow. If you wish to participate in the exchange, the value should be \$10. All are invited, but **please make a reservation by December 5**, in the church office to assure adequate preparations for this catered occasion. Office: 770-786-7321 or penihaug@gmail.com.

From Billy Wade: Some years ago I asked members of the congregation to tell me how they had experienced "God with us" in this season. I was overwhelmed by the responses. I am asking you to do this again (or for the first time).

How have you experienced God with you this season: in forgiveness or reconciliation, in hope, peace, love or joy?

You can send me a poem, or a story, or a few lines of description, or a picture. Let me know if I can share these things.
 e-mail: wbwade75@gmail.com

Red Cross Blood Drive Friday, December 16. Please see the insert for details.

Advent Leaflet

We have published a leaflet that tells the meaning of the **Advent Wreath** and of the **Chrismons** on the tree in the sanctuary. They are available on the round table in the narthex.

Still wondering what to give someone on your Christmas list? Why not honor him or her with a contribution to one of the many causes supported by our church: Boy Scouts, Baby Love, Food Pantry, Nicaragua missions, Thornwell, Faith Works, Hudson/Chandler bike fund, or the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.. It's easy: choose the cause, write your check to the church with the name of the cause that you are supporting in the memo line; then, let Perri Walden, Judy Davis or any member of the Witness team know that you have made the contribution, and a member of the witness team will give you a card to present to the recipient.

Pledge Update: We have 69 pledges totaling \$368,070. We still need your pledge. Cards are available in the narthex.

Women's Bible Study Books for the January Study Group are available in the church office. On Sundays you may check with Alice Walker **after worship**.

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 Kehoe: 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."



Food Pantry Needs

The Food Pantry is now open on **Wednesdays and Fridays** from 9:00 - 12:00. Donations of any non-perishable food items are welcome.

December suggested donations are:

peanut butter, jelly, boxed stuffing mix, canned collard greens and canned yams

Baby Love is our program to collect diapers and wipes, or donations toward them, to give to local organizations which distribute them to parents in need. Place diapers in the cradle in the narthex. Donations should be designated to "Baby Love".



THANKS TO THOSE SERVING US TODAY

December Usher Chair:
 Stephanie Scarborough

Sound Engineer:
 Ken Walker

MEMBERS OF SESSION

Class of 2016
 Charles Ardis
 Joyce Ashworth
 Betty Bailey
 Patrick Carmichael
 Perri Walden
 Jake McCarthy

Class of 2017
 Baxter Bouchillon
 Adriane Ivey
 Michael Thompson
 Danny Vining
 Jean Wolverton

Class of 2018
 Gary Boteler
 Billy Fortson
 Scarlett McCurry
 Stephanie Scarborough
 Tom Stillerman

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STAFF

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



Third Sunday of Advent
 December 11, 2016



Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD



PRELUDE

Alan Bunn, piano

INTROIT

Jackson County High School Choral Ensemble
 Alan Bunn, Director

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Charles, Lori, Koen, Laurel and Jasmine Ardis
 God is making the final preparations for an amazing thing!
Now is the advent of the long-awaited Messiah, our bringer of hope, our Prince of Peace, our leader of love.
 We wait, we prepare, we make straight the way.
 We celebrate the coming of Christ with the lighting of the Advent candles.

We are a people of hope, a people of peace, a people of love. At first there was the frail light of a single candle of hope daring to pierce through the darkness of despair and sin. Then there was the candle of peace, the gentle and persistent fire. Today we light the candle of love. No other word so adequately captures the spirit and goal of our faith. No other word so completely describes what we know of our God. **For God so loved the world that a child was given. A Savior was made in the form of love incarnate. We gather, then, in Christian love.**

We give thanks for a love that passes understanding, and we await the dawning of God's pervasive and enduring love once more this Advent season. May this candle of love give light to the world!

Listen to the words of John chapter 3:16-17...

I now light the candle of love.

Let us pray: **Almighty God, prepare our hearts so that the dear Christ may enter in and be born in us. Fill us with his love for you and for your people everywhere; for we pray in his name. Amen.**

✦HYMN 88 *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* VENI EMMANUEL

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we wait for your coming, holding on to your promise. Forgive us when we fail to hear the singing of angels, when we are blind to the brightness of your star, when we do not recognize you in your works, when we allow no room in our hearts for your love. By your abounding grace, prepare our lives and this world to receive your inexpressible Gift.

(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 ANTIOCH

Hymn 134, stanza 3

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

✦THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM Jackson County High School Choral Ensemble
Alan Bunn, Director

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 Isaiah 35.1-10
Matthew 11:2-11

SERMON *Are You the One?* William B. Wade, Jr.

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

✦HYMN 347 *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* PICARDY

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE DIX

Hymn 150, stanza 3

As they offered gifts most rare at thy manger, rude and bare, so may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.

✦PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Strengthen us, O God, in the power of your Spirit to bring good news to the poor and to lift blind eyes to sight, to loose the chains that bind and claim your blessing for all people, through Jesus our Savior. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

✦CHARGE AND BLESSING

✦CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Hymn 123, stanza 5

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the evercircling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

✦POSTLUDE Jackson County High School Choral Ensemble
Alan Bunn, Director

✦Please stand if you are able.



Third Sunday in Advent

Worship Notes

- ✦**Dan Walden**, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, is assisting with leading worship today.
- ✦Please enter the sanctuary in a spirit of reverence as we prepare to worship God. Remember to **turn on your cell phones** when you leave.
- ✦Recordings of Sunday sermons can be accessed on the church website: www.fpccov.org.

In Our Thoughts and Prayers

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|--|---|
| †Rick Gunter-cataract surgery 12/12 | †John Fish-cancer (Bryson Wade's uncle) |
| †Carol Dunbar-recovering from surgery | †Roger Gossage-awaiting transplant |
| †Alton Cochran-Pruitt Healthcare for rehab | †Jan Coulon-home |
| †Jack Wheeler-recovering from cataract surgery | †Jim Stalvey, Jr.-melanoma |
| †Donald Vining-Recovery from spine surgery (brother, Danny Vining) | Assisted Living/Nursing Homes: |
| †Joyce V. Williams-Recovery from mastectomy (sister, Danny Vining) | †Russ Cole-Rockdale Healthcare |
| †Rick Gunter-recovering from cataract surgery | †Jeanne Cannon-Darien, GA |
| †Praise God for the rain! | †J. L. Johnson -Dogwood Forest Alpharetta, GA |
| †Jamie Huckaby Fairchild-cancer (Darrel Huckaby's daughter) | Riverside |
| †Kalin Patin-6 month old boy, born prematurely experiencing problems | †Joy Knight -hospice care |
| †Chuck Hodges-treatment for lymphoma (friend of Patti Lanford) | †Martha Borders |
| †Ursula Kaminski-cancer treatment | †Rita Harrell |
| †Louise Strickland-home | Merryvale |
| †Rebecca Kirby-cancer (family of Scarlet McCurry) | †Guy McGiboney |
| †Danny Vining-prostate cancer/new treatment | †Bill Taylor |
| †Ron Swatty-heart problems, brother -in-law of Charles Ardis) | †Betty Robinson |
| †Lecia Landolt-chemo for pancreatic cancer (friend of Patti Lanford) | †Louise White |
| †Ann Hill-ovarian cancer (Theodosia Wade's cousin) | †Betty Goins |
| †Mitchell Jessup -cancer (father of Nick Jessup) | †Hughie Hudson |
| †Sharon Walton-chemotherapy (friend of Patti Lanford) | Celebration |
| †Sophia Hawley-Cystic Fibrosis | Mac Cranford has been nominated by the Atlanta Area Boy Scouts to receive the Silver Beaver Award--the highest award that a local council can give to a volunteer Scout Leader for service to youth. |

Hospital Visitor:
Day Kennon