

First Presbyterian Church
1169 Clark Street, SW
Covington, GA 30014
770-786-7321



December

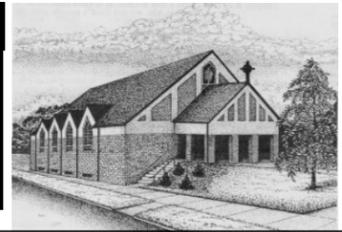
Time Sensitive Church News
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First Presbyterian Church, Covington

December 2013

FIRST PRESS



The deadline for the January "First Press" is December 15, 2013. Please submit your articles and information to the church office by email: penihaug@att.net or by dropping off your copy to the church office, neatly printed or typed or on a flash drive. Thanks!

December Birthdays



1 Florine DeConinck	13 Sarah Hanson	24 Chris Weesner
Rebecca Bates	15 Louly Hay	25 Rodney Pruner
2 Dennis Hooten	17 Michael Gunter	27 Ed Crudup
Sarah Gregory	18 Kathryn Wallace	28 Doris Hicks
3 Jack Yoder	19 Leon Hughes	Don Wade
4 Trent Blankenship	21 Margaret Wallace	Nathan Harvill
7 Luke Gregory	Grace Hanson	29 Dan Walden
8 Laurel Ardis	22 Tina Boston	31 Jodi Walden
11 Ellis Dunbar	23 Julie Epps	
12 Brad Phillips	24 Bill Taylor	

If your birthday has not appeared on our monthly list, please notify us and we will add it to our data base so that when your next birthday rolls around, we will be able to help you celebrate!

ADVENT

If you ask most people on the street what season it is, they will say: "It's the Christmas season, of course!" But, Christians know it is Advent.

I have said sometimes how hard it is to hold the church back from singing Christmas Carols until it is at least pretty close to Christmas, because we want to be liturgically correct in our worship. But, the truth is I really love the Advent hymns. I admit there are not too many of them I know well, so after a couple of weeks we run out of them. Advent hymns are not conducive to the holiday shopping mood, and therefore are not played over and over again in the stores. They tend to have a haunting melody that expresses a true longing which wells up from the depths of the soul. They are prayers that convey the hope that there is something more for us than what we tend to know: "Watchman, tell us of the night, what its signs of promise are."

Advent starts with the lighting of a single candle, then another, and another. It begins with a few decorations, and then a few more and a few more. It begins with a lone angel on the communion table and continues until the whole table is full. It begins with one solitary light shining in the darkness, until the heavens are filled with the glory of God. It begins with a lone voice crying in the wilderness, and grows to a multitude of heavenly hosts praising God. It begins with the song of one young pregnant girl, and builds to the crescendo of the *Hallelujah Chorus!*

Billy

SANCTUARY CHOIR CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Advent is a holy season of expectant waiting and preparation for the birth of Christ. It is also a journey from darkness into light. *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelled in a land of darkness, upon them has light shined* (Isaiah 9:2).

The FPC Sanctuary Choir will present its annual Christmas Cantata, **Candles and Carols**, by Mark Hayes and Pamela Martin at the morning worship service on Sunday, December 15, 2013. **Candles and Carols** is a candlelight Advent journey that celebrates the traditional themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, culminating in the birth of Christ.

HANDBELL CHOIR: The FPC Handbell Choir will perform *An Appalachian Christmas*, arranged by Tammy Waldrop at the morning service on Sunday, December 15, 2013.

CHRISTMAS EVE: Various small ensembles will be playing/singing Advent and Christmas music as a part of this special service on December 24 at 6 pm (note the earlier start time). Musical titles include: *Once in Royal David's City*, *O Holy Night*, and *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*. Please consider joining us for this annual service of scripture readings and beautiful music.

We hope that all these seasonal musical offerings will both bless and give hope to all those who listen. O come, Emanuel, and Merry Christmas!

Alan Bunn, Music Director

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CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER



First Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 1, we will celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Prepare your heart.



Thank you for the prayers, cards, visits, food, love, and concern during Frank's illness and death. In a time like this we

realize anew how much our church family means to us. We will always remember your kind expressions of sympathy and love with grateful hearts.

Sarah Davis and Family

Roger and I don't know how we could have made it through the past few months without the food, visits, phone calls and especially the prayers. We are so fortunate to be members of such a caring church.

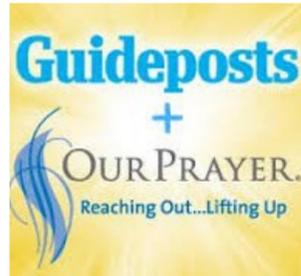
Kathryn Wallace



Thank You

PRAYER PARTNER MINISTRY

Our Prayer Partner Ministry with Guidepost is closing on a very successful note. Thank God and our Pastor who had faith in us. April 5, 2013, the Head Associate Manager, Donna Marino, conducted the training at the home of Ken and Alice Walker. Thanks to them for a special lunch. We prayed for people around the world. All in attendance were from the Ambassador Choir except one. Ken was on hand for technical assistance.



All our new Prayer Partners are on duty between one and two hours a week. I am still on duty five hours a week and substitute at different times during the day.

Ask any of these persons what a joy this is. You will know them by their arm bracelets (white: Our Prayer). There is still need for more helpers to meet the many prayer requests. Thanks to my church this was a dream come true for me.

Love, Agnes Ruth Campbell

The Session will meet for its regular monthly meeting on Sunday, **December 15, 2013**, in the fellowship hall, immediately after worship.



Monthly Financial Report			
2013 October Numbers rounded	Monthly Budget	Monthly Income/ Expenses	YTD Income /Expenses
Pledged Income	32,472	34,087	325,332
Non-Pledge Income	2,249	3,184	34,304
Other Income	375	835	3,875
Total income	35,917	38,106	363,511
Expenses	36,404	35,095	346,010
Net Totals 10/31/13	1,306	3,011	17,501



New Address for Murray McClure
740 Amy Lee Lane
Rock Hill, SC 29732
706-726-1374

Pledge Shortfall Year to Date:
\$ 7,591.00

Weekly E-newsletter:
Send us your e-mail address if you are not receiving it already. Just send an email to: info@fpccov.org



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship Youth Connection: 4:00 Middle School 5:30 High School	2	3 Circles Meet: 10:00 2 & 3 10:30 1 6:30 4 & 5	4	5 10:30 Ambassador Choir	6	7
8 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship 5:30 Christmas Joy Program	9 5:30 Witness Team	10 4:00 Exercise	11 4:00 Adventure Club 4:00 Prayer Group 6:00 Mid-Week Feast 6:45 Sanctuary Choir DVD Series	12 10:30 Ambassador Choir 12:00 Silver Saints Christmas Lunch & Gift Exchange	13	14
15 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship, Choir Cantata 12:00 Session meets Youth Connection: 4:00 Middle School 5:30 High School	16	17 4:00 Exercise	18 ?	19 10:30 Ambassador Choir 2:00 Christmas Party for Covington Square Residents	20 Newsletter Deadline	21
22 9:00 Handbell Choir 9:30 Children's Choir 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	23	24 Church Offices Close at Noon 6:00 Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE	25 Church Offices Closed 	26	27	28
29 10:00 Sunday School 11:00 Worship	30	31 Church Offices Close at Noon	See our website at: www.fpccov.org			

Opportunities for Giving

The Hudson/Chandler Bike Fund supplies bikes for children under the care of DFACS. To give, make a check out to the church and designate "bike fund" or call Doug Bolton 770-784-7395. Deadline for giving is Sunday, Dec 10.

Angel and Salvation Army tree gifts for children and nursing home residents: To give, choose a name from one or both of the trees, register the name of person you have chosen on sheet provided, and bring wrapped and tagged gift to the church by December 15. For more information contact Jean Elder or Rick Gunter.



Empty Stocking Fund drop box sponsored by Covington Rotary: Box for dropping off new unwrapped toys for children up to twelve years of age is located in the narthex. Deadline can be found on the box.

Food Pantry: The food pantry is overwhelmed with requests for food. Non-perishables can be placed in the boxes provided in the narthex, or deliver them to the food pantry. Checks can be written to the church with a designation of food pantry. Contributions will be taken up to the week of Christmas. Call Bernice Bailey 770-786-3048 for further information.

Pastor's discretionary fund: Each year we have last minute requests from families who are not covered by the Salvation Army but cannot

afford Christmas gifts for their children. After investigating the request, church staff gives the family a gift certificate to one of the local stores. This year we have already seen an increase in such requests. If you would like to contribute to this fund, make your check out to the church and designate Pastor's Discretionary Fund.



The residents of Covington Square Apartments will be guests of FPC for Christmas cookies and punch in the Fellowship Hall. The sounds of Christmas will be provided by the Ambassador Choir under the direction of Alice Walker.



Food Pantry Needs

Food Donations

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 December cake, brownie and other dessert mixes



AMBASSADOR CHOIR SCHEDULE

Sunday, December 1, sing at FPC for the 11:00 Worship Service. Wear Choir Robes.

Regular rehearsal on Thursdays December 5, and December 12, at 10:30. The rehearsal on December 12, will be followed by Christmas Lunch with Silver Saints in the Martin Fellowship Hall.

Sunday, December 8, 2013 - Christmas Party and Luncheon at the home of Bill Cobham, 5778 Hillside Drive in Covington.

Thursday, December 19, 2013 - Please meet at 1:00 p.m. in Choir Room for rehearsal to sing at the Christmas Party for Covington Square at 2:00 p.m. - Festive holiday attire.



Circles to Meet on Tuesday, December 3

Circle I will meet at 10:30 at the home of Joyce Ashworth.

Circle II will meet at 10:00 at the home of Betty Robinson.

Circle III will meet at the Bistro at Merryvale Assisted Living. The address is 11980 Hwy, 142 N, Oxford. The meeting will begin at 10:00 with light refreshments. Those who wish to carpool should meet at 9:30 at the Fellowship Hall entrance of the church.

Circle IV will meet at the home of Stephanie Fortson at 6:30. (This is a change from the regular meeting time)

Circle V will meet at 6:30 at the home of Tootles Tingler.

Silver Saints and Ambassador Choir



Christmas Party

Please mark your calendars for the Silver Saints and Ambassador Choir Christmas Luncheon at 12:00 noon on December 12, in the fellowship hall. The traditional gift exchange will add to the festivities, so remember to bring a gift valued at \$10.



Choir Schedule

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSALS: Wednesdays, 6:45 - 8 p.m. 12/4, 12/11.

Regular weekly Wed. rehearsals resume on 1/8/14.

NO REHEARSALS: 12/18, 12/25, 1/1.

HANDBELL CHOIR REHEARSALS: Sundays, 9 a.m. - 9:50 a.m. 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22. Regular Sunday rehearsals resume on 1/5/14.

NO REHEARSAL: 12/29

CHILDREN'S CHOIR REHEARSALS: Sundays, 9:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 2/22.

Regular Sunday rehearsals resume on 1/5/14

NO REHEARSAL: 12/29

YOUTH CHOIR: usually Sundays, 5 - 5:30 p.m. Youth Choir rehearsal is scheduled in conjunction with Youth activities on Sunday evening. So, whenever there is youth then there is choir.

EARLIER TIME FOR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE



Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

The Christmas Eve Service this year will start one hour earlier than in previous years. Please note the **change in time.** It will be at **6:00 p.m.** on Tuesday night, December 24.

SERVING US IN DECEMBER

Nursery Volunteers

- 12/1: Shaun & Aubrey Evans
- 12/8: Trista Hooten-Wilson
- 12/15: Bates Family
- 12/22: Henderson Family
- 12/29: Jessup Family

Ushers for December

- Denny Dobbs
- Eleanor Scarborough
- Stephanie Scarborough.

Sound Engineer: Ken Walker

Hospital Visitors

- 12/1: Jean Blair
- 12/8: Jon Williams
- 12/15: Cy Wolverton
- 12/22: Leon Hughes
- 12/29: Day Kennon

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SESSION

Class of 2013

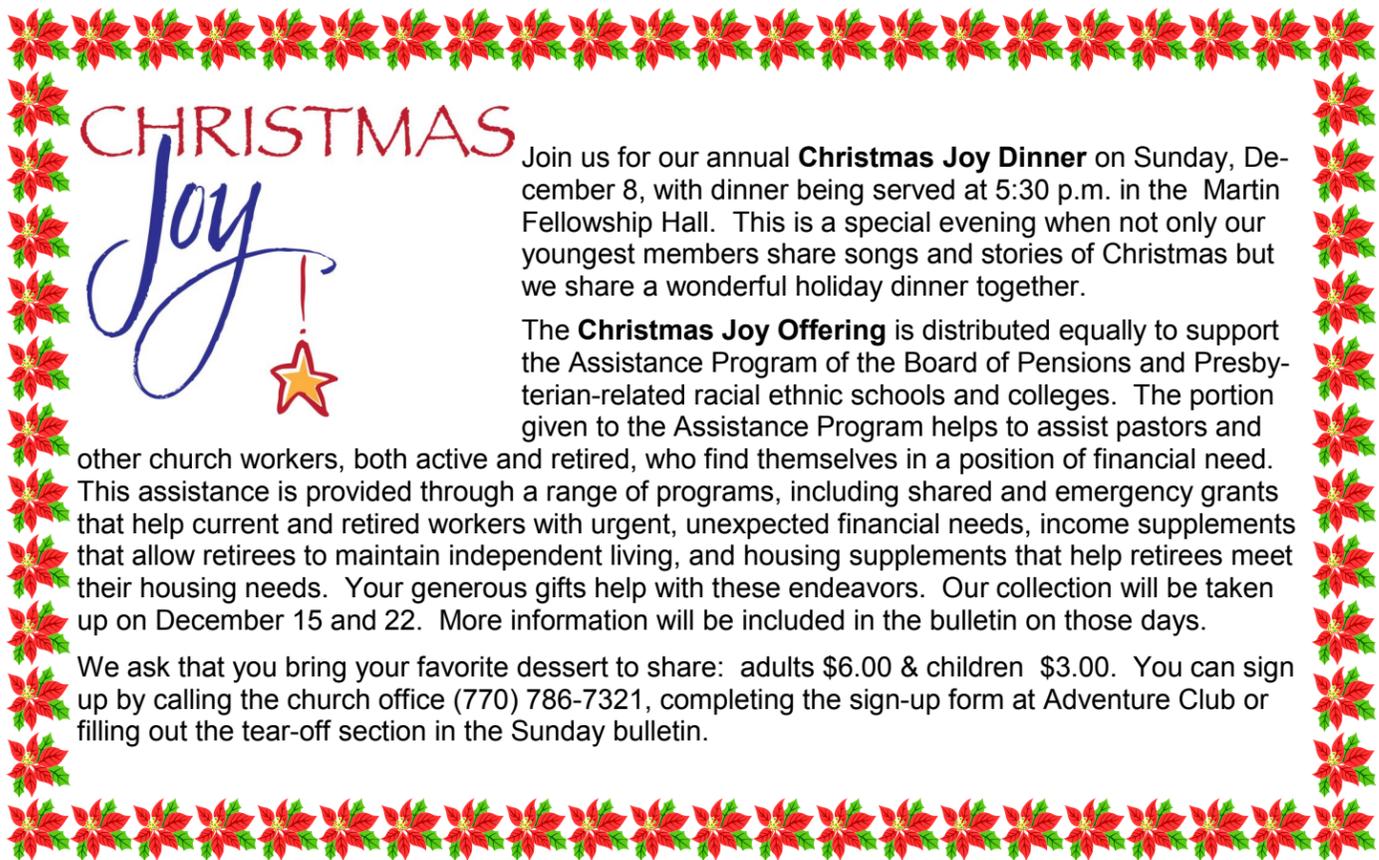
- Patrick Carmichael
- Judy Davis
- Denny Dobbs
- Aubrey Evans
- Dave Gregory

Class of 2014

- Debra Arnold
- Bill Loebke
- Darcel Tabb
- Roger Tingler
- Cy Wolverton

Class of 2015

- Gary Boteler
- Billy Fortson
- Jan Giles
- Jim Stillerman
- Kevin Weber



CHRISTMAS

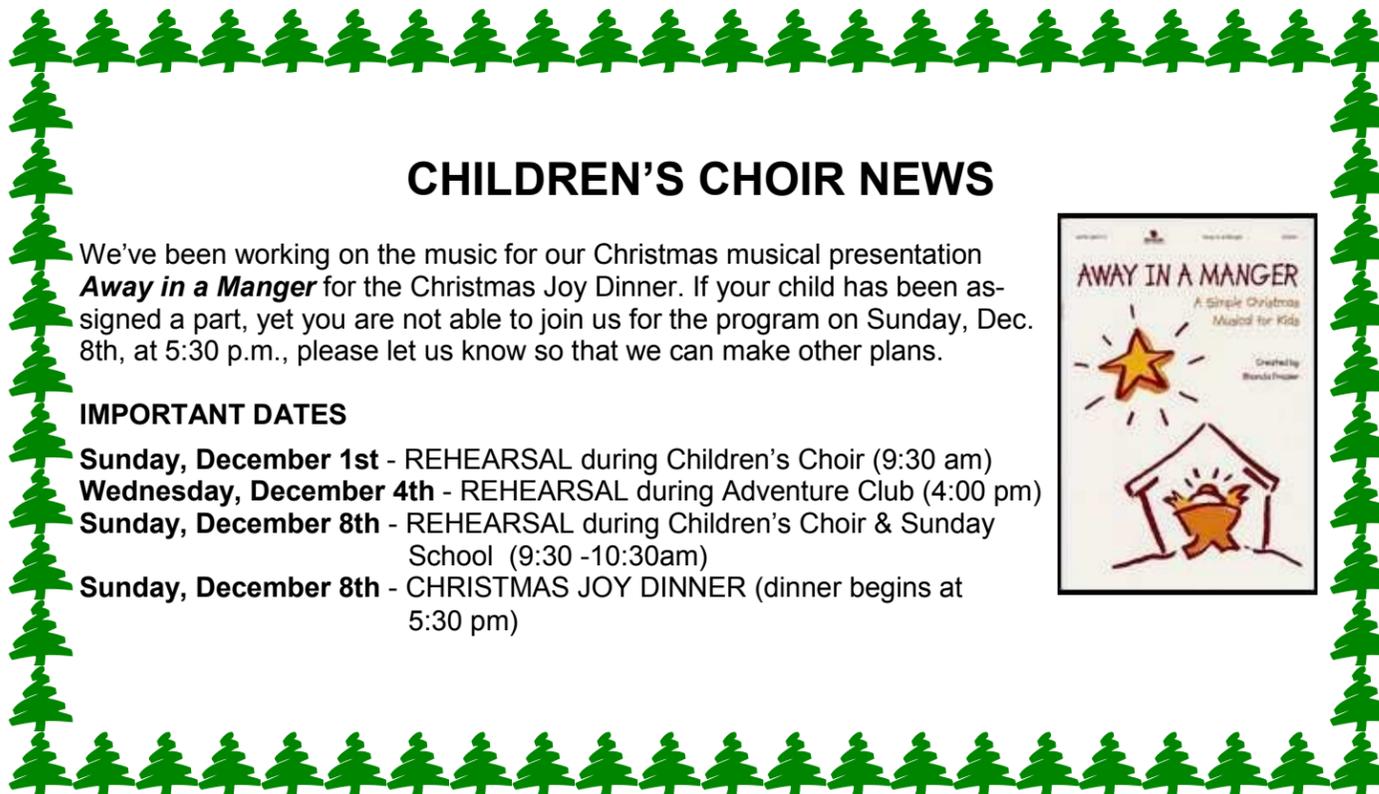
Joy!

Join us for our annual **Christmas Joy Dinner** on Sunday, December 8, with dinner being served at 5:30 p.m. in the Martin Fellowship Hall. This is a special evening when not only our youngest members share songs and stories of Christmas but we share a wonderful holiday dinner together.

The **Christmas Joy Offering** is distributed equally to support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. The portion given to the Assistance Program helps to assist pastors and

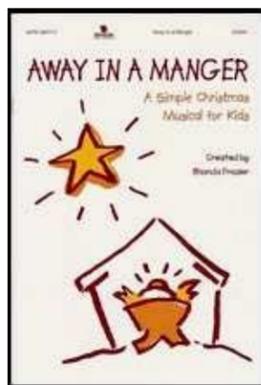
other church workers, both active and retired, who find themselves in a position of financial need. This assistance is provided through a range of programs, including shared and emergency grants that help current and retired workers with urgent, unexpected financial needs, income supplements that allow retirees to maintain independent living, and housing supplements that help retirees meet their housing needs. Your generous gifts help with these endeavors. Our collection will be taken up on December 15 and 22. More information will be included in the bulletin on those days.

We ask that you bring your favorite dessert to share: adults \$6.00 & children \$3.00. You can sign up by calling the church office (770) 786-7321, completing the sign-up form at Adventure Club or filling out the tear-off section in the Sunday bulletin.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR NEWS

We've been working on the music for our Christmas musical presentation **Away in a Manger** for the Christmas Joy Dinner. If your child has been assigned a part, yet you are not able to join us for the program on Sunday, Dec. 8th, at 5:30 p.m., please let us know so that we can make other plans.



IMPORTANT DATES

- Sunday, December 1st** - REHEARSAL during Children's Choir (9:30 am)
- Wednesday, December 4th** - REHEARSAL during Adventure Club (4:00 pm)
- Sunday, December 8th** - REHEARSAL during Children's Choir & Sunday School (9:30 -10:30am)
- Sunday, December 8th** - CHRISTMAS JOY DINNER (dinner begins at 5:30 pm)



Dear FPC Family,
It is so hard to believe that December is here and that we are making all the regular preparations for Christmas. One of our goals for FPELC is to make sure the classrooms and the children focus on the true reason for the season: Jesus. One of the books we recently read for library time is *Ronnie Wilson's Gift*. In this book, the child, Ronnie, learns for the first time of the gift that Jesus gives

to us. He is overwhelmed with joy and wants so badly to give Jesus his most precious possession—his signed MLB baseball glove. In trying to get this gift to Jesus, Ronnie learns that by giving to others and helping others in need, we are indeed giving gifts to Jesus. "And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me.'" ~Matthew 25:40. This book is a favorite at my home and is becoming tradition at FPELC. Our theme for December is "Christmas" and our Bible verse for the month is "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." ~Luke 2:11.

Our Green Room (pre-k) students did a fantastic job with their program, "Thanksgiving." They performed for parents, grandparents, and friends on Monday, November 18th. This is an annual program, but each year the class and the teachers make it new. It was great, and the children did an excellent job in showing us and teaching us about Thanksgiving. Thank you to teachers **Pauline Dziama** and **Vicki Rowe** for all of their time invested in making this such a hit! Pictures can be found on our website: www.firstpresec.shutterfly.com.

Although it is months away, we have already begun planning for our annual **An Art Affair**. Our committee began meeting in October and is being co-chaired by me and **Judy Hooten**; we are very blessed to have her help with this event. It is going to be held again at American Legion on **Friday, March 21st**. One of the sections of the event that brings in a great deal of money for our school is the raffle. We have been very successful at obtaining donations from local businesses and from metro area



an art affair

...continued next column

attractions. However, some of our biggest raffles are for a few items we must purchase; thank you to the Newton County Arts Association for offering some of the popular camp passes at a discounted rate. If you are interested in "gifting" the ELC during Christmas time or during the New Year, here are a few things that we could use for our raffle: 1- ½ price Creative Kids Camp (\$112.50), 2- ½ price Princess Camp (\$65.00), or 3- a family membership to Zoo Atlanta (\$110). Thanks for your help!

Thanks for all of your support and God Bless!
~Krissey



Visit FPC at: www.fpccov.org



Christmas Witness

Poinsettias will be used to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. However, instead of all the donations being spent on flowers, most of your donation will go to two charities. The **Ferguson Cottage of Thornwell Homes** and **Living Water for Girls** will be the recipients of your generosity. You may donate in memory or honor of someone with the suggested minimum donation of \$8.00. Please fill out the form found in the bulletin or newsletter and place it in the offering plate with a check or drop it off at the church office by December 15.

Given by _____

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Amount enclosed
\$ _____

Please use first and last names for any person being remembered (not Dr., Mr., Mrs., etc.)