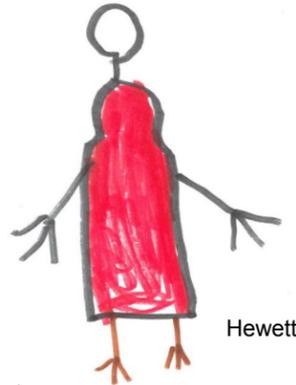


## ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**Music notes:** The prelude, "Come Now, Savior of the Gentiles", is an example of J. S. Bach as musician and theologian. The chorale melody is highly embellished with various references to Jesus' advent. The pedal line, a walking bass, is like the march to Calvary. This juxtaposition of Christ's coming and his Passion is a theme Bach addressed often in his music. "Sheep May Safely Graze" is an E. Power Biggs arrangement of a soprano aria from Bach's "Birthday Cantata." The "Salutation Carol", (The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came) is a carol from the Basque provinces located between southern France and northern Spain. This arrangement is by Robert Powell, a musician in Greenville, SC.



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.

Remember to bring 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 13 Advent 3

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

#### Tuesday, December 15

4:00 Exercise

#### Wednesday, December 16 6:45 Choir Rehearsal

#### Thursday, December 17 9:30 Ambassador Choir

#### Sunday, December 20 Advent 4

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

## 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](mailto:wbwade75@gmail.com)

Dan Walden: [djwalden@mac.com](mailto:djwalden@mac.com)

Church Office/Peni Haug: [penihaug@gmail.com](mailto:penihaug@gmail.com)

Website: [www.fpccov.org](http://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](http://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.  
Dan Walden

*Pastor*  
*Director of Youth and Children's Ministry*

Peni Haug  
Alan Bunn

*Secretary-Treasurer*  
*Music Director*

Alice Walker

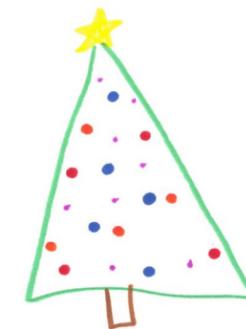
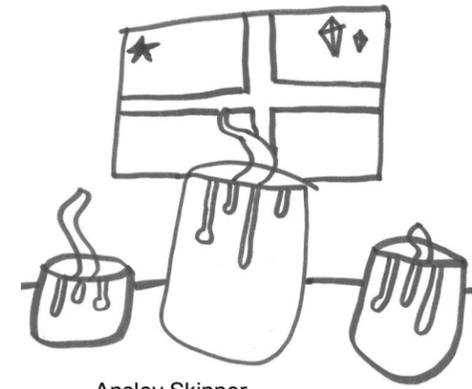
*CAGO, AAGO*  
*Organist/Ambassador Choir*

Maria Serrato, Aubrey Evans  
Kara Sugg

*Nursery*  
*Interim Director of the Early Learning Center*



Third Sunday  
of Advent  
December 13, 2015



Larkin Arnold



Ms. Lori

## GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE

Johann Sebastian Bach

*Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659*

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Dana and Stan Hall

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 108** DIVINUM MYSTERIUM  
*Of the Father's Love Begotten*  
solo - stanza 1  
‡congregation - stanzas 5 and 6

## CALL TO CONFESSION

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, we come before you to confess that we have closed our eyes, our ears, our hearts, and our minds to the Good News. We have sought our own way and followed our own will, and become lost and afraid. Forgive us, and open us to your loving grace and caring Spirit. Let all who have ears hear your Word, and those with voices, proclaim it boldly.**  
(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

**CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE** ST. LOUIS  
Hymn 121, stanza 4  
***O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!***

## 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** Basque Carol  
*The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came*  
Perri and Dan Walden

## 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** Micah 5:2  
Luke 1:39-55

**SERMON** *Mary's Song* William B. Wade, Jr.

## RESPONDING TO THE WORD

**RESPONSE** *How Can I Keep from Singing?*  
Dan Walden, solo

‡AFFIRMATION OF FAITH *The Apostles' Creed*  
p. 35 in front of hymnal

‡HYMN 100 STAR OF THE COUNTY DOWN  
*My Soul Cried Out with a Joyful Shout*

## CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

## THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

**OFFERTORY** *Sheep May Safely Graze* J. S. Bach  
Sarah Martin, organ Eugene Martin, piano

‡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 BENEDICTION

‡CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE CAROL  
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 *The Salutation Carol* Robert Powell

‡Please stand if you are able.

The flowers in the sanctuary are given in memory of Jerry and Joe Patrick by Hilda and Pat Patrick. Jerry and Joe were long-time supporters of our church and both would have been 100 years old this year.



## Worship Notes

‡Sarah Martin, guest organist today is a past Dean of the Atlanta Chapter AGO and currently teaches Organ at Georgia State University. She is a graduate of Agnes Scott and majored in Music. She played at Covenant Presbyterian Church on Peachtree Street in Atlanta for years. We welcome her husband, Gene, who is also a musician and will join with Sarah on the offertory. Please see **Music notes** on the next page.

‡Dan Walden, Director of Youth and Children's Ministries, is assisting with the leading of 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.

## 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)  
†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 Presbyterian for the Greater Atlanta Presbytery)  
†Lisa Baker-cancer treatment  
†Anderson Krieger-continuing treatment for leukemia  
**Assisted Living/Nursing Homes:**  
†Russ Cole -The Magnolias, Conyers  
†Jeanne Cannon-Darien, GA

**Riverside**  
†Joy Knight -hospice care  
†Martha Borders  
†Rita Harrell

**Benton House**  
†Doris Mote  
†George Stamps (temporarily at Riverside)

**Merryvale**  
†Guy McGiboney  
†Bill Taylor  
†Elizabeth Gadilhe  
†Betty Robinson  
†J. L. Johnson

We extend our sympathy and prayers for the family of **Wilbur Fisher**, former Newton High coach who died on Sunday.

**Hospital Visitor:** Stephanie Fortson

Please update your prayer requests this week! Email: [penihaug@gmail.com](mailto:penihaug@gmail.com)