

ONGOING ACTIVITIES IN THE
LIFE OF THE CHURCH

This Week at FPC

Sunday, February 28

9:00 Handbell Choir
9:30 Children's Choir
10:00 Sunday School
5:00 Youth Connection

Tuesday, March 1

Circles meet-see details below
4:00 Exercise

Wednesday, March 2

4:00 Adventure Club
6:45 Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, March 3

10:30 Ambassador Choir

Saturday, March 5

9:00 Session Retreat

Sunday, March 6

9:00 Handbell Choir
9:30 Children's Choir
10:00 Sunday School
11:00 Worship Service
12:00 Witness Team Meets
5:00 Youth Connection

Presbyterian Women's Circles meet on the first Tuesday of the month. This month the circles are meeting on **March 1**, at the following locations:

Circle I meets at 10:00 in the fellowship hall.

Circle II meets at 10:30 at the home of Beth Vining. Lesson 7, Streams of Mercy, will be led by Janet Carmichael.

Circle III meets at 7:00 pm at the home of Stephanie Fortson.

Witness Team is planning a trip to Thornwell Home for Children on **April 1-3**. The projects we do there will be determined once we know who is interested in going. If you would like to participate in this important mission, please contact Perri Walden at perriwalden@charter.net.

March Birthday List

Due to a computer program printing glitch 3 birthdays were left off the newsletter list of March birthdays. We send best wishes to: Dylan Jones, 3/10; Tom Stillerman, 3/17 and Anita Johnson 3/28.

Lenten Devotional Continued from reverse side, middle panel...

"Make your ways known to me, Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth-teach it to me- because you are the God who saves me. I put my hope in you all day long." Psalm 25:4-5

The voice of Christ assures me:

"Lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matt 28:20

And the apostle Paul comforts me:

"Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7.

And so, God, I am ready to begin the forty days of Lent listening for Your Voice directing me, forgiving me, comforting me, and leading me toward Easter morning when I can celebrate with the risen Lord and be grateful for Your love. Amen.

**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."



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

For **February** suggested donations are: **canned meats, chicken, beef, beef stew, spam, ham**

(no tuna).

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 **cradle** 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

February Usher Chair:

Joyce Ashworth

March Usher Chair:

Baxter Bouchillon

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.
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
Director of the
Early Learning Center



Third Sunday in Lent

February 28, 2016



Order of Worship

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

PRELUDE *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* Robert W. Thygeron
Prelude in G Major Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy

INTROIT *In Silence My Soul Thirsts* MY SOUL THIRSTS
Sanctuary Choir

✦ **CALL TO WORSHIP** Psalm 63:1-4

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name. Amen

✦ **HYMN 307** *God of Grace and God of Glory* CWM RHONDDA

CALL TO CONFESSION 1 Timothy 1:14-15

The grace of God overflows for us through Christ Jesus who came into the world to save sinners. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, we thank you for this Lenten season. It is a much-needed time for us to concentrate more fully on strengthening our relationship with you. We confess the lack of zeal with which we often approach this relationship. We confess the times when our love of the activities of this world overrides our love of spending time with you. We confess the ways we shut you out of our lives. Help us to resolve anew to grow in our desire to be close to you, for the sake of Christ's work on earth.

(silence for personal prayer and reflection)

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

✦ **GLORIA PATRI** HYMN 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

◆ THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Keep God's Light* Mark Patterson
Sanctuary Choir

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 Psalm 51:10-12
Luke 13:1-9

SERMON *Change of Heart* Dan Walden

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

◆ HYMN 223 HAMBURG
When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

◆ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH from *The Confession of 1967*
In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once for all. Jesus, a Palestinian Jew, lived among his own people and shared their needs, temptations, joys, and sorrows. He expressed the love of God in word and deed and became a brother to all kinds of sinful people. But his complete obedience led him into conflict with his people. His life and teaching judged their goodness, religious aspirations, and national hopes. Many rejected him and demanded his death. In giving himself freely for them, he took upon himself the judgment under which all people stand convicted. God raised him from the dead, vindicating him as Messiah and Lord. The victim of sin became victor, and won the victory over sin and death for all.

MOMENT FOR MISSION Judy Davis

CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

THE OFFERING OF SUBSTANCE AND LIFE

OFFERTORY *All Things Bright and Beautiful* Robert F. Swift

◆ 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
Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, and in encouraging those around us to know and follow Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

◆ HYMN 187 COME NOW, YOU BLESSED
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

◆ CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

◆ CHORAL RESPONSE MY SOUL THIRSTS
In Silence My Soul Thirsts
Sanctuary Choir

◆ POSTLUDE *Rondo* Henry Purcell

◆ Please stand if you are able.



"Fasting for Lent"
By Judy Davis

In the 58th Chapter of Isaiah, the Israelites ask Isaiah and God: "Why do we fast and you don't see; why afflict ourselves and you don't notice?" *Isaiah 58:3*

Isaiah is quick to tell them that their fasting has been misdirected. They have fasted for their own pleasure and forgotten their workers. He instructs them in what a true fast should consist of:
"Isn't this the fast I choose: releasing wicked restraints, untying the ropes of a yoke, setting free the mistreated, and breaking every yoke? Isn't it sharing your bread with the hungry and bringing the homeless poor into your house, covering the naked when you see them, and not hiding from your own family?" Isaiah 58:6-7

For me, Lent brings back childhood memories of fasting: giving up chocolate, but gorging myself on caramel. Once in high school, I gave up cigarettes and ended up buying a pipe and some tobacco. Surely my understanding of Lent was as misdirected as it was for the Israelites. I wanted to be good. I wanted to prove to Mama and God that I could sacrifice for the sake of good, and I failed miserably.

So, today, I, like the Israelites, ask God, "Just what is it that you want? How would you have me spend these 40 days leading up to Easter?" I cry with the psalmist

continued on back page...

Worship Notes

◆ Dan Walden, Director of Youth and Children's Ministry, is our preacher today and will be helping to lead worship this morning.
◆ 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

†Doreatha Murrain-biopsy on this past Monday †Louise White: Newton Medical, to go to Merryvale †Colleen Paige - surgery (cousin of Perri Walden) †Ron Swatty-heart problems, brother -in-law of Charles Ardis) †Roger Tingler-hip replacement, home †Lane Alderman-hospice, former pastor of Roswell Presbyterian (friend of Billy & Theodosia Wade) †Sandy Peterson-cancer (former member) †Kelly Dittman-doing well after heart surgery (sister of Baxter Bouchillon) †Diane Loeble-knee surgery, home †Chris Martin-shoulder surgery, home †Bernice Bailey-knee surgery, home †Lecia Landolt-chemo for pancreatic cancer (friend of Patti Lanford) †Vickie Sewell-breathing difficulties †Deborah Jones-surgery (Reed Blakeney's daughter) †Kim Bailey-on-going physical therapy after bicycle accident (Bernice Bailey's daughter-in-law) †Ann Hill-ovarian cancer (Theodosia Wade's cousin) †Mitchell Jessup -cancer (father of Nick Jessup) †Sharon Walton-chemotherapy for kidney cancer (friend of Patti Lanford) †Sophia Hawley-Cystic Fibrosis †John Fish-cancer (Bryson Wade's uncle †Roger Gossage-awaiting transplant †Catherine Horton-hospice care (sister of Maxine Blankenship) †Jan Coulon-home †Jim Stalvey, Jr.-melanoma †Penny Hill-cancer (Executive Presbyter for the Greater Atlanta Presbytery	†Anderson Krieger-continuing treatment for leukemia Assisted Living/Nursing Homes: †Russ Cole-Rockdale Healthcare for rehab †Jeanne Cannon-Darien, GA Riverside †Joy Knight -hospice care †Martha Borders †Rita Harrell †Jack Yoder-rehab Benton House †Doris Mote †George Stamps Merryvale †Guy McGiboney †Bill Taylor †Elizabeth Gadilhe †Betty Robinson †J. L. Johnson Celebrations: Buncie Lanners was honored by the Newton County Board of Commissioners who declared Tuesday, February 16, 2016 as "Buncie Hay Lanners Day" in recognition for her commitment to the young people and the arts in our community. Scarlett McCurry has just completed her first year at Kaplan University. She is working toward a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice. She made the President's List each term this year, and has maintained a 4.0 GPA. She has been asked to join the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, an honor society for high-achieving first- and second-year undergraduates from over 300 colleges and universities across the country. We extend our sympathy and prayers to the family of Joel Hill who died suddenly (grandfather of a Cub Scout). Hospital Visitor: Jean Wolverton
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