

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 18

- 8:45 AM Early Worship*
- 9:00 AM Ignite@9*
- 9:30 AM Christmas Breakfast
- 11:00 AM Worship*
- 5:00 PM Youth Christmas Party at Sharitt's

Monday, December 19

- 4:00 PM Operation's Ministry
- 5:30 PM Session Meeting
- 6:00 PM Stephen Ministers
- 6:00 PM Stephen Minister Training
- 6:00 PM Ballroom Dance Class

Tuesday, December 20

- 7:00 PM MSNGRbird Rehearsals
- 7:30 PM Adult Handbell Choir

Wednesday, December 21

- 7:35 PM Adult Choir

Thursday, December 22

- 12:00 PM Advent Lunch

Friday, December 23

- 11:00 AM Intercessory Prayer Group

Saturday, December 24

- 12:00 PM Personal Prayer for World Peace
(Wherever you are when the siren sounds)
- 4:30 PM Candlelight Communion Service
featuring Children & Youth Choirs
- 6:30 PM Candlelight Communion Service
featuring Adult Choir

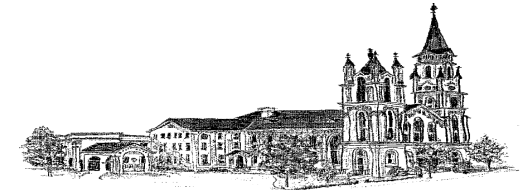
* Childcare Provided

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1100 First Avenue
Columbus, Georgia 31901
706-322-4523



www.columbusfpc.org

December 18, 2011 - 11 a.m.

Volume 66, Number 50

Angels Among Us: The Shepherds' Story

Once again, this week, we will see how angels deliver an important message as we hear the shepherds' story. Can you imagine what it must have been like for the shepherds out in the field, minding their own business and watching over their sheep, to suddenly see a bright light making them startled and afraid? They were probably wondering why angels would choose to deliver such significant news to them.

Come on Sunday and we will learn just what the shepherds heard and what they chose to do with the news they had been given. Their submission to the angels' instruction changed not only their lives, but the lives of everyone they encountered. What will we do with the good news "which will be for all people?"

Don't forget Christmas Breakfast is this Sunday at 9:30 a.m. in the gym. I look forward to seeing you there and in one of our three services!

In Advent Joy and Love,

Christmas and Advent Schedule

This Week

Sunday, December 18
4th Sunday of Advent
The Shepherds' Story
Christmas Breakfast 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday, December 21
No Church Family Supper

Thursday, December 22
Advent Lunch Series 12 p.m.
Speaker: Rev. Nikki McMillan,
Bare Bulb Ministry

Upcoming Events

Saturday, December 24
Candlelight Communion Services
4:30 PM & 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25
Fellowship Hour, 10 a.m.
Combined Worship 11 a.m.



All Members, *Ministers*
The Reverend Charles R. Hasty, Jr., *Senior Pastor*
The Reverend Dr. E. Jones Doughton, *Associate Pastor*
Mr. Thomas H. George, Jr., *Organist and Choirmaster*
Ms. Suzanne McCary, *Church Administrator*
Mr. Don Sharitt, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Mrs. Jami Conroy, *Director of Children's Ministries*
The Reverend Jason Micheli, *Campus Pastor, Abbey Fellowship*



SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

4th Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Purple

December 18, 2011 † 11 a.m.

† GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME †

PRELUDE

O Leave Your Sheep

arr. Morris

Silent Night

arr. Wagner

Adult Handbell Choir

(Prepare for worship in silent prayer.)

LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

Donna and Mike Terry

*CALL TO WORSHIP

*HYMN 168

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we lay before You all the idols that have kept us from true worship. We have been so distracted by our own concerns and destructive pleasures that we have not heard the songs of angels or seen Your activity in the common place. You have brought light to the world, and we have chosen to live in darkness. O God, we need the Savior You have sent to deliver us from our self-destructive ways. We want to be led to a new day by the goods news of great joy, which is for all people...*(continue in silent personal confession)*

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(Sung)*

O holy Child of Bethlehem, Descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, Be born in us today.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Friends, hear and believe the Good News of the Gospel.

People: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(Sung)*

We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel.

(Elementary Children dismissed to Children's Church)

† PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD †

*HYMN OF ILLUMINATION 167

Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM

*FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

p.638, OT

ANTHEM

Tidings of Comfort and Joy

arr. Wagner

Adult Handbell Choir

*SECOND LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

p.58, NT

SERMON

Angels Among Us: The Shepherd's' Story

Rev. Charles R. Hasty, Jr.

† RESPONDING TO THE WORD †

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed (*The Hymnbook*, page 12 – “He descended into hell”)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (“Debts”, “Debtors”)

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*“We give Thee but thine own, whate'er the gift may be:
all that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.”*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

arr. Hopson

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing. Ding dong! Verily the sky is riven with angels singing: Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! E'n so, here below, below, let steeple bells be swung; and i-o, i-o, i-o, by priest and people sung! Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! Pray you dutifully prime your matin chime, you ringers; may you beautifully rhyme your evetime song, you singers; Gloria, hosanna in excelsis!

*DOXOLOGY HYMN 544

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† SENDING †

*HYMN 158

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE

How Great Our Joy!

arr. Rutter

*POSTLUDE

Angels, From the Realms of Glory
(with Trompette en Chamade)

Burkhardt

**Worshippers are invited to stand.*

†††

The flowers in the chapel today are given to the glory of God and in celebration of the marriage of Amelia Alcorn Vaught and James Joseph Lawlor.

Following the 11 a.m. service, a Stephen Minister will be available in the Sanctuary for prayer and in the Museum for private prayer.

Hearing devices are available by request in the Sanctuary. Please ask any usher for assistance.

Youth & Children's Ministries
Family Ministries

LOGOS-a-GoGo 2011 - 2012

Bible Verse for December:

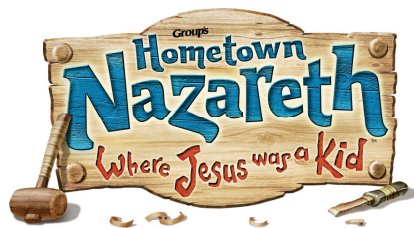
Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Isaiah 4:17

Logos Themes

Dec. 21 - Jan. 4	No Logos
Jan. 11	Epiphany
Jan. 18	Backwards Night
Jan. 25	Grandparent's Night

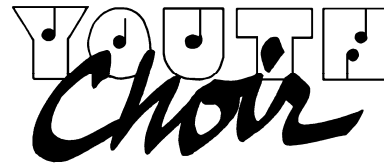
The **PRIMARY (grades K-2)**, **JUNIOR (grades 3-5)** and **YOUTH (grades 6-12) choirs** will all be leading in worship at the 4:30 service on Christmas Eve. We will gather in the choir rooms at 4:00 for robing and a brief pre-service rehearsal.



Let's prepare our hearts for the true meaning of Christmas – the gift of Jesus! Each Sunday we will go back in time to Hometown Nazareth where the kids will visit the home of Jesus' mom, Mary, and hear her story of the nativity and the young years of Jesus' life. Kids will also visit an authentic marketplace where they can experience a hands-on Bible time village. Your kids will not want to miss the fun!

**Youth Calendar
(6th - 12th grades)**

- Dec. 18 Youth Christmas Party at the Sharitt's (6127 Bristol Blvd.) and Christmas Caroling: 5 - 10 p.m.
- Jan. 8 SNL! and Youth Choir resumes.
- Jan. 11 Logos and Yada Yada resumes.
- Jan. 14 Confirmation Retreat at FPC. (Details to come)
- Jan. 15 Confirmation Class Begins



YOUTH CHOIR will NOT meet this Sunday, December 18. **WE WILL HOLD A SPECIAL REHEARSAL** on December 21, beginning at 5:30 with a pizza supper. Rehearsal will run from 6:00 to 7:00. This will be our final rehearsal for Christmas Eve.

Check out First Presbyterian Church's **NEW website at www.columbusfpc.org** &



Congregational Joys & Concerns

Health Concerns

Members: Terrell Adams, Kathy Chancellor, William Gibbs, Faye Johnson, Scott Jones, Hugh Kennedy, Ty Kingery, Betty Lawrence, Elaine McMillen, Bill Miley, Daniel Moseley, Dave Moss, Laurene Moye, Bill Mullin, Fran Paepcke, Dewey Reaves.

Family: Virginia Bartow, *mother of Pam B. Moye*; Ken Crumpler, *husband of Kathy Crumpler (Part-time Receptionist)*; Steve Enfinger, *cousin of Faye Johnson*; Catherine Handjis, *aunt of Chris Smith*; Florence Henry, *mother of Larry Henry*; Shara Johnson, *daughter-in-law of Will and Faye Johnson*; the Merriken Family, *friends of Jarrett and Leah Cudd*; Ed and Mary Ann Neal, *father and mother of Warner Neal*; Virginia Rhoades, *mother of Sharon Webb*; Jane Shirah, *sister of Paul Dobbs*; David Stephenson, *son of Agnes Stephenson*; Susan Thomas, *sister-in-law of Inga Paris*, Cathy Smith Wilkerson, *niece of Biddy Hammett*.

Remember our deployed soldiers: Charles Carmen, Derek DiBello, Ben Durham, Wade Greenley, Allie Vacalis, their families, and military families around the world.

† In Memoriam †
Charles A. Coffin
June 7, 1945 - December 12, 2011

Congregational sympathy is extended to the Daffin family on the death of Jason's father, Johnnie Daffin.

Congregational sympathy is extended to the Barnes family on the death of Stacy's mother, Mildred Barnes.

Choose This Day

As of December 6, we have received 248 pledge cards totaling \$1,140,337.21. The average pledge is \$4,598.13.

If you have not yet submitted your pledge card for 2012, please do so as soon as possible so the stewardship and finance ministry can make plans toward funding the ministries, missions and programs of the church for next year.

Notes for Sunday, December 18, 2011

8:45 AM Usher Team

Leonard Buce, Gary Singley.

11:00 AM Usher Team

Heath Schondelmayer – Captain, Fitz Bickerstaff, Jonathan Brand, Rob Brand, Beth Bridges, Hamilton Hilsman, William Middleton, Libbie Stone.

Vestibule Team

Ben Williams - Captain, Jim Ballengee, Steve Gunby, A. Illges, Frank Lumpkin, III, Barbara Page, Dudley Wells.

Greeters and First Friends

Hugh Kennedy, Bob Swygert, Stacy Welch.

TV Team

Jeff Adams, Matt Adams, Rush Wickes, Kyle Moye.

Soundboard

Boon Bickerstaff.

Youth Scripture Reader

Juliana Cowart.

Children's Church Assistants

William or Vandy Middleton.

Pastor-on-Call

Rev. Charles R. Hasty, Jr.

Sermons Online

Go to www.columbusfpc.org, click on Worship and then Sermon Archives.

**Financial Status through
Sunday, December 4:**

Total Income	\$1,427,579.45
Total Expenses	(\$1,496,541.54)
	(\$68,962.09)

Your continued faithfulness will allow the church to close 2011 in a positive financial position.

Ministry Opportunities

These are prayer requests from Cheryl Burke, **Dean of Students at Forman Christian College in Pakistan**. Through the Global Missions Offering we underwrite student scholarships to this school. Ms. Burke charmed us all at the Global Missions Conference this year. "Please pray for the young people of Pakistan as they begin to feel empowered to change the course of their country. I pray that they will listen to the right voices and that they will choose peaceful means of making their demands heard. It is an exciting time but also a dangerous one for them and for the nation. I believe with all my heart that prayer changes things. Thanking God that I am NOT in charge, I join you in praying to the One who is that this coming year would be one of peace."

Stephen Ministers Available. If you would like to pray with a Stephen Minister immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service, Judy Dean will be in the Museum, Frazier Loomis will be in the Sanctuary, and Cammy Currie will be on call during the week at 706.984.8653. All contacts with Stephen Ministers are held in confidence.

IT'S THE FIRST CHRISTMAS without him or her and it hurts. The family gathered around the tree is smaller now. You keep thinking of the way it was last year. At this difficult time, a **STEPHEN MINISTER** can help. Your Stephen Minister will listen while you work through your sorrow and pain. If you can use the help of a Stephen Minister, contact Rev. Doughton.

The Christmas Market concludes this Sunday, December 18. You can shop for Christmas presents for friends and family by making a donation to one of our local church partners. A provided shopping list will show just how much your money will benefit these groups. There is no better way to celebrate the holiday than to honor friends and family with a donation to one of these worthy organizations.

During the month of November the **Uptown Food Pantry** was open 15 times and served 279 family units with 618 people.

"Thank you" goes to all who participated in our **"Time, Talent and Treasure" Mission Auction**. To date we have received \$9,583.

Please remember, in order to receive contribution credit for the year 2011, all monies must either be received in the church office or postmarked no later than Saturday, December 31. All donations of stock must be transferred on or before that date as well. The church office will be open on Friday, December 30, until 5 p.m. Contributions received after December 31 will be credited to the year 2012.

Our Christmas Eve Offering will be equally divided between our partner church, The Good News Baptist Church in Moscow, and the PC (USA) Joy Gift Offering. The Joy Gift goes to support retired church workers and PC(USA) racial-ethnic schools and colleges.

During the month of November 733 **Sack Lunches** were distributed by First Presbyterian Church volunteers.

Sack Lunch Ministry: As you are preparing your family for the cooler weather to come, please remember that our friends who come to the door each day for a sack lunch could also use some help. We are requesting clean adult-sized jackets, coats, hats and gloves. We could also use heavy shirts and sweatshirts as well as socks. We have very limited storage space but will try to find room for these much-needed seasonal items. Thank you in advance for your help.

Fellowship & Christian Education Opportunities

Men's Prayer Breakfast
will take a break for December 22 and 29. We will meet again in the new year on Thursday, January 5, 2012 at 7:15 a.m. in the Parlor.

Men's Life
will reconvene in January 2012.

At Home Communion Sunday, January 8: Teams of Deacons and Elders will take communion to members of the church who are unable to attend church on that day. If you know a member who would like to receive communion at home, in assisted living, in a nursing home, or in the hospital, please contact the church office.

College and Career Sunday Morning Conversations

Join us 20-somethings on Sundays at 10 a.m. in room 108 to discuss the intersection of our faith and events in the news. For more information, please visit <http://www.columbusfpc.org/adult-sunday-school> or contact Rev. Jason Micheli.

Oasis : Prayer: Join us in the chapel on Wednesdays from 5 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer. (Feel free to arrive late.) We close with a communal prayer at 5:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Rev. Micheli.

Wanted: Volunteers to run the soundboard during church services. No experience necessary. We will teach you. Younger adults welcome. It's fun and challenging and an excellent way to serve your church with your talents. Contact Harry Rice at 706.315.5978.

Our First Advent Noon Luncheon Series concludes Thursday, December 22. Our Theme comes from John 1 "The Word Made Flesh". Our speaker is Rev. Nikki McMillan, Pastor/Chief Percolator for The Bare Bulb in Warner Robins. It is an interesting outreach Coffee Shop ministry of First Presbyterian in Warner Robins. Her topic will be John 1:10-13: Adoption/We Have Become Children of God.



Our annual **Christmas Breakfast returns Sunday, December 18**, from 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Please make plans to attend and if you can help in any way, contact Jane Jarrell at 706.221.0660 or Debbie Buce at 706.563.9280.

Volunteers are needed to run the TV equipment during church services. No experience is necessary, training is available. It's fun and challenging and an excellent way to serve your church with your talents. Contact Kyle Moye at 706.322.4523 or kmoye@columbusfpc.org.

The Upper Room and Our Daily Bread devotional books are located on a table outside the Fellowship Hall.