

This Week at FPC

Sunday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Hour

11:00 a.m. Combined Worship*

Monday, December 26

Church Office Closed.

Tuesday, December 27

No Activities.

Wednesday, December 28

No Activities.

Thursday, December 29

No Activities.

Friday, December 30

11:00 a.m. Intercessory Prayer Group

Saturday, December 31

12:00 p.m. Personal Prayer for World Peace

(Wherever you are when the siren sounds)

Sunday, January 1

Happy New Year!

11:00 a.m. Combined Worship*

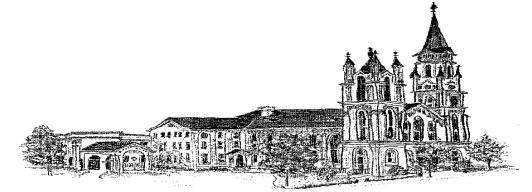
* Childcare Provided

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



www.columbusfpc.org

December 25, 2011 - 11 a.m.

Volume 66, Number 51

The Christmas Spirit

*The Christmas spirit
is that hope
which tenaciously clings
to the hearts of the faithful
and announces
in the face
of any Herod the world can produce
and all the inn doors slammed in our faces
and all the dark nights of our souls
that with God
all things are possible, that even now
unto us a
Child is born!*

- Ann Weems

Christmas Day is on Sunday! What better time is there to worship our new born King? Come to the combined worship service at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary! Come join the shepherds in awe and wonder. Come join the angels in their heavenly song. Come join the Magi, present your gifts in humble adoration.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come!

Chuck



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

Christmas Day

Liturgical Color: White

December 25, 2011 † 11 a.m.

† GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME †

PRELUDE *Joy to the World* arr. Head
Roger Redden, trumpet
(Prepare for worship in silent prayer.)

CHORAL INTROIT *Yea, Christ is born* Tye

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*HYMN 161 *Joy to the World!* ANTIOCH

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Just and righteous God, the child in a manger leads us back to You. We have tried to ignore You, to deny Your reality, to make it through life on our own. We have become accustomed to evil, to cynicism and exploitation, to dull routines and artificial excitements. O God, we long for something better. We want to rediscover integrity, faithfulness, and true joy. In the awesome simplicity of new-found life, amid the frightening complexity of all that distracts us from You, we repent and seek our freedom in Christ. Hear us, holy God...*(continue in silent personal confession)*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

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

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE *(Sung)*

Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King, Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled. Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies, with th' angelic host proclaim. "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark, the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

† PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD †

*HYMN FOR ILLUMINATION 156 *The First Noel* THE FIRST NOEL

*FIRST LESSON Isaiah 60: 1-7 p. 690, OT

ANTHEM *Ding Dong! Merrily on High/He is Born!* Page
Andrew Hendley, clarinet

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heaven the bells are ringing. Ding dong! Verily the sky is riven with angel singing. Gloria, sing gloria, sing gloria, Hosanna in excelsis! He is born, the divine Christ child, play the oboe and bagpipes merrily! He is born, the divine Christ child, sing we all of the infant mild. Through long ages of the past prophets have foretold His coming! Through long ages of the past, now the time has come at last!

*SECOND LESSON Matthew 2:1-12 p. 2, NT

SERMON **Angels Among Us: The Magi's Story** Rev. Charles R. Hasty, Jr.

† RESPONDING TO THE WORD †

*HYMN OF AFFIRMATION (see insert) *Go Tell It on the Mountain*
Caroline Castle, Glen Giles

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

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Good Christians All, Rejoice* arr. Lasky
Roger Redden, trumpet

Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today, Christ is born today! Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forevermore. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this! Good Christians all, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; you need not fear the grave; Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

*DOXOLOGY HYMN 544

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

† SENDING †

*HYMN 165 *Good Christian Men, Rejoice* IN DULCI JUBILO

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*CHORAL RESPONSE *Gloria in Excelsis Deo* Shaw

*POSTLUDE *In Dulci Jubilo* Bach

**Worshippers are invited to stand.*

†††

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

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



Dear FPC Kids,

Thank you so much for the lovely group gift of homemade cards, gift cards, and goodies! You all were very thoughtful to think of me. I

feel very special and blessed. Do you know what is also a great blessing? Getting to share the joy of Jesus' birth at Christmas time with each of you. Merry Christmas.

Love,
Ms. Jami



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)**

- Jan. 8 SNL! (Sack Lunch Packing) and Youth Choir resumes.
- Jan. 11 Logos and Yada Yada resumes.
- Jan. 12 High School Bible Study at the Montgomery's 7 - 8:30 p.m.
- Jan. 14 Confirmation Retreat at FPC. 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. in the Lodge.
- Jan. 15 Confirmation Class Begins NO SNL!
- Jan. 22 SNL! (Bible Study)
- Jan. 27-29 High School Quest
- Jan. 29 No SNL!

**Child and Youth Protection Policy
Training Class**

In accordance with the Child and Youth Protection Policy, volunteers who work with children and youth at First Presbyterian Church are required to attend one child safety training class annually (1 hour). This year we will offer two classes in January:

Wednesday, January 4 6:30-7:30 p.m.

(please note there is no LOGOS this evening)

Sunday, January 22 12:15 p.m.

(lunch will be provided)

Please make a reservation through Kimberly Moseley at 706.322.4523 or at kmoseley@columbusfpc.org to attend one of the classes and let us know if you will need child care for children ages 6 weeks – 5th grade.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping to create a safe environment for our children!

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.

Family: Virginia Bartow, *mother of Pam B. Moye*; Steve Enfinger, *cousin of Faye Johnson*; Catherine Handjic, *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, Zachary Labas, Allie Vacalis, their families, and military families around the world.

† In Memoriam †
Charles A. Coffin

June 7, 1945 - December 12, 2011

Congratulations to Frazer and Cory Loomis on the birth of their new grandson, Asher Logan, born on December 13, to the proud parents, Cory and Danielle Loomis. Proud great-grandparents in our congregation are John and Betty Kinnett.

Congratulations to Amelia Vaught and Jim Lawlor who were married in our chapel on December 17. Amelia is the daughter of Barry and Kathryn Vaught.

Good News: Kevin Beasley, 11th grader at Hardaway High School and a member of our Youth Group, was baptized at the Ignite@9 Service on Sunday, December 18.

Notes for Sunday, December 25, 2011

11:00 AM Usher Team

Pete Pease – Captain, Chad Cottrell, Rob Harbison, Frank Lumpkin, III, Will McCormick, Emily Pease, Mark Post, Mary Casey Powers, Mike Stone, Crystal Trawick, Johnson Trawick.

Vestibule Team

Jack Benedict - Captain, Edgar Chancellor, Lucile Flournoy, Sam Greer, Stacy Welch, Faye Woodruff.

Greeters and First Friends

Kittye Taber Bell, Blair Carnahan, Jane Etheridge.

TV Team

Scott Barton, Georgia Barton, Tom Driver, Kyle Moye.

Soundboard

Ed Adams, III.

Pastor-on-Call

Rev. Dr. E. Jones Doughton

Sermons Online

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

**Financial Status through
Sunday, December 18:**

Total Income	\$1,491,130.20
Total Expenses	(\$1,550,200.68)
	(\$59,070.48)

Thank you for your faithfulness. If you have not yet completed your 2011 pledge, please remember to do so on or before Friday, December 30th.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 8, 2012, following the 11 a.m. worship service. For the purpose of renewing our line of credit at SunTrust Bank.

Ministry Opportunities

Here is an update from our **Partner Church-The Good News Church of Moscow**: "Our puppet theater is doing a great job. Three performances were held in our church on three Saturdays in a row. They were for unbelievers. We invited children from our area and friends of our children. The performances were a success and the visitors received invitations for the next one in January, called "Giving in secret" (according to a story in "Guideposts"). Our youth went on a missionary trip to the village Panino (birth place of our pastor Sergei Smagin). There was also another missionary trip to Tajikistan, a Muslim country. Our pastor, Michael, took part in it. This autumn we had an unusual (for us) event, called: "Candies instead of cigarettes". Young Christians from our church exchanged candies for cigarettes in the street, talking about tobacco damage and the Gospel. (I hope I explained everything clearly). Dear friends we are asking you to join us in our prayers to God. We are praying God to bless our plans for future: repair works of our church heating system, ministry for deaf people and soldiers, the preparation for Christmas, the children's choir. God bless you in your ministry and daily life."

Stephen Ministers Available. If you would like to pray with a Stephen Minister immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service, Lisa Powers will be in the Museum, Earle Powell will be in the Sanctuary, and Andy Moye will be on call during the week at 706.653.9203. 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.

"Thank you" goes to all who participated in our **"Time, Talent and Treasure" Mission Auction**. To date we have received \$9,683.

"Thank you" goes to all who gave to the **Christmas Giving Market**. To date we have received \$5,250.

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 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 resume on January 10, 2012 in the Lodge at 6:30 a.m.

At Home Communion Sunday, January 8: Teams of Deacons and Elders will take communion to members of the church who are unable to attend 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.

We resume our **Church Family Suppers** on Wednesday, January 11 at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The **Iona Service with special prayers for healing** will take place at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

Special thanks goes to church staff, Jane Jarrell and Debbie Buce, and all those who made the Christmas Breakfast such a wonderful time of fellowship. Numerous volunteers gave of their musical talents, flipped pancakes, prepared food in the kitchen, set up and cleaned up, decorated, refilled the food bins, and in other ways contributed to such a special time in the life of the church.

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.

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

