

Leader: Will you commit yourselves to be examples and witnesses of how we are to love and serve Jesus and one another?

**People: We will.**

Leader: Will you love them and encourage them as they continue to grow in their understanding of God's goodness and grace?

**People: We will.**

### Prayer and Sacrament of Baptism

**Declaration and Charge** - I declare that these young people are now members of the church of Jesus Christ and this congregation. Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. Amen.

### WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

#### Scripture Lesson

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 9:6-7

#### DRAMA - "The Grinch of Christmas Parties and the Grinch of Christmas Memories"

Sharing God's Word "Some Grinches Need a Little Peace" Dr. William D. Coker

\*Red Hymnal #148 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (v. 1, 2, 4)

### WE CELEBRATE THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### The Words of Invitation

Leader: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: O God, God of the patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, God of Abraham and Sarah to Joseph and Mary, put within us during this season of Advent the longing for your coming that was possessed by those who journeyed before us.

**People: Awaken within us the richness of our origins and the depths of our past that we may be a people old in experience and young in hope.**

Leader: Come to us as the breaking of the dawn, and dispel the darkness of our desolation and grant us a sense of expectancy and joy.

**People: Help us to turn to you with eyes newly opened, with hope reawakened, and with a peace that can only come from the One who is called the Prince of Peace.**

Leader: Lord, as we look forward and remember the birth of the Christ Child, we cannot help but look beyond to the fulfillment of the mission of the Christ Child.

**People: As an infant, he caused the heavens to rejoice.**

Leader: As a young boy, he amazed young and old with his wisdom.

**People: As an adult, he brought hope and good news.**

Leader: As a teacher, he said, "Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

**People: As a savior, he brought us freedom from sin, faith to believe and a future to enjoy.**

Leader: As we remember Jesus' birth, we cannot help but remember his death and the gift of His Supper.

**People: Every time we share the bread and the cup of His Supper, we are renewed and blessed.**

Leader: Every time we share the bread and the cup of His Supper, we do so in a spirit of repentance and confession.

**People: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. Those who come to me shall not hunger, and those who believe in me shall never thirst. No one who comes to me will I cast out." Let us repent of our sins, reaffirm our faith in Jesus and give thanks for God's wonderful gift of salvation.**

Leader: Happy are those who hunger and thirst to do what is right, for they shall be filled. Baptized children may participate in the Lord's Supper, provided parents explain the meaning of Christ's atonement.

**All: By God's grace, we have been set free from the sting of sin and death. Let us remember and celebrate the Last Supper of our Lord. Amen.**

#### Silent Prayers of Confession and Preparation

**Sharing the Bread and the Cup (Please hold the elements to share together.)**

#### Prayer of Thanksgiving - The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

\*Red Hymnal #160 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (v. 1, 3, 4)

\*Benediction

\*Choral Response Threefold Amen

\*Postlude: March Pontificale William Stickles

\*\*Those who are able may stand.

## **THE COVENANTER NEWS & EVENTS**

1) **GUESTS:** Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ! Welcome to our Covenant family. Plan to come and worship with us as often as you can. For more information about Covenant, visit us at [www.covpc.org](http://www.covpc.org).

2) **CONNECTION CARDS:** Please fill out your Connection Card & drop it in the Offering Plate. Guests, please pick up your gift on the table in the Narthex.

3) **OUR NURSERY IS AVAILABLE FOR CHILDREN AGES NEWBORN THROUGH 3 YRS OLD:** Please see an Usher for assistance. Kid's activity bags are available in Narthex. **ROCKING CHAIRS** are available in the Narthex for parents, grandparents, or anyone who might need to stay with a baby and still listen to the service.

4) **TODAY'S LAY READERS:** Diana Settle - 9:00am; Palma James - 11:00am

5) **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES: Children's Activities (Ages 4-5th Grade) - JAM (Jesus & Me) meets Sundays at 10 AM. KEWL (Kids Enjoying Worship & Life) meets Sundays during 11 AM service. KiDsRoCk meets Wednesdays from 4:00 -5:30 PM. Early drop off at 3:30 PM.**

6) **YOUTH FALL ACTIVITIES: Middle & High School in Walter Flint Youth Center; Sundays: 10 a.m. - Sunday School with Coach Ed Reaves in Café 2126; 6:50 - 8:PM. - Youth Fellowship/Worship with Eric and Stephen in Walter Flint Youth Center; Wednesdays: 6:00 - 7:00 p.m. - Youth Bible Study in Walter Flint Youth Center.**

7) **CHOIR REHEARSAL** - Sunday, December 6 - Bell Rehearsal - 4:00pm; Wednesday, December 9 - Choir Rehearsal - 6:45pm Friday, December 11 - Kids Musical Rehearsal - 5:30 - 7:30pm

8) **FLOWERS GIVEN IN WORSHIP TODAY BY:** Carl Croft and Dolly in memory of Elaine Croft.

9) **WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER** - Next WNS is December 9 @ 5:30pm. Program: Elmodel Quartet. Come and enjoy! Menu: Beef Stew, Rice, Rolls, Toss Salad, Pumpkin Pie

10) **OUR CHRISTMAS CANTATA** is DECEMBER 13TH - We will have ONE service at 11:00am. Please bring a friend to this inspirational service.

11) **CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAGS ARE AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. PLEASE TAKE ONE, GIVE IT TO A FAMILY AND INVITE THAT FAMILY TO OUR ADVENT SERVICES.**

12) **WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP USHER AT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE** Will need extra ushers to help with offering and candle lighting. Please contact Ben Strickland after 5:00pm at 229-439-2338 if you can help.

13) **DORCAS Sewing Group** - Meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Join us!

14) **DEACON'S MEETING** - Sunday, December 13th immediately following the 11:00am Worship Service.

#### 15) UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Monday, December 7** - Callaway Gardens Fantasy In Lights
- **Wednesday, December 9** - WNS and Elmodel Quarter to entertain us. 5:30pm
- **Sunday, December 13** - Christmas Cantata @ 11:00am service. **Lunch to follow.**
- **- SEWN @ 5:00pm**
- **Wednesday, December 16** - PW Christmas Dinner - 6:00pm, Fellowship Hall
- **Sunday, December 20** - Local bus trip to "Look at Lights" in early evening.
- **Thursday, December 24** - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 6:00pm
- **Sunday, December 27** - Only ONE Worship Service at 11:00 a.m.

16) **POINSETTIAS** are still available for purchase for the Sanctuary. The cost is \$10.00. Our Sanctuary is so beautiful.....let's fill it with gorgeous poinsettias to honor or in memory of friends and loved ones.

#### 17) PW ACTIVITIES:

- **CIRCLE OF FAITH** - December meeting will be a covered dish dinner at the home of Kay Fuller on Dec 14th at 6:30.

- **CIRCLE OF HOPE** - Tuesday, December 8th - 10:00am - Palma James' home

- **CHRISTMAS TEA** - December 12th - 2 - 4pm - Cheryl Coker's home

#### 18) ADVENT SERMON SERIES: "Don't Let the Grinches Steal Your Christmas"

##### December 6 Second Sunday of Advent

**Drama:** The Grinch of Christmas Parties and the Grinch of Christmas Memories

**Sermon:** "Some Grinches Need a Little Peace"

##### December 13 Third Sunday of Advent

**Drama:** The Grinch of Christmas Cards and the Grinch of Holiday Baking

**Children's Sermon:** "Some Grinches Need a Little Joy"

##### December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent

**Drama:** The Grinch of Gift Wrapping and the Grinch of Christmas' True Meaning

**Sermon:** "Some Grinches Need a Little Love"

##### December 24 Christmas Eve

**Sermon:** "Let's Keep Christmas" by Dr. Peter Marshall

#### 19) DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS:

1 Jean Chung	12 Matt Hoover,	18 Noel Newman	Clegg, Lawson
2 Kay Fuller	Rosemarie Barfield	19 Carla Kennedy	Vann, Lindsay Lewis
3 Brooks Custer	13 Mike McDonald	20 Sam Hoover	Lindsey
4 Alice Hathcock,	14 Lee James	24 Rick Gladney	31 Sue Hamlin, Sylvia Vann
Candy Johnston	15 William Coker	25 Carolyn Custer	
11 Deidri Koster,	16 Jamie Barfield,	27 Terry Merchant	
Larry Sellers, Merid-	Ryan Garnto	28 Carl Croft, Gail	
ith Sullivan	17 Kathy Lindsey	Pursel, Jimmy	

20) **COF (CELEBRATION OF FAITH)** - 2016. March 4th - 6th at The Lodge at Lake Blackshear. Registration is now open. You can register on-line at the following website ([www.flintriverpresbytery.org](http://www.flintriverpresbytery.org)). Questions? Call June Denny at 229-435-9726 ext. 22.

21) **NOTE TO THOSE WHO RECEIVE THE BULLETIN THROUGH SNAIL MAIL:** Sometimes it takes longer to prepare the bulletin than we expect. If you want a bulletin early, just drop by the office on Friday and pick one up.

22) **END OF YEAR GIVING** - Please complete your 2015 pledge by December 31st, **AND** if you can, please give a little **EXTRA** so that we can end the year with a **SURPLUS**. Thanks, **The Finance Ministry Team**

#### Notes

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## Staff Corner with Nancy Reimer



A couple of weeks ago, I attended my annual meeting at Columbia Theological Seminary as a member of the President's Advisory Council. As Presbyterians from all over the south, we were delighted to meet the newly installed president, Rev. Dr. Leanne Van Dyk. We brainstormed together how we could more effectively address the problems Christianity in America is facing.

How are we to do that with so many challenges today? We are in a time when Evangelicals may be shaping Christianity but Christ is no longer shaping the American culture like it used to be. We have a rapidly growing number of Americans that are categorized as "nones" which means they are religiously unassociated. Since 2007, there are 5 million fewer adults that call themselves mainline Protestants. There is a decline in general of the people who even call themselves Christians.

How can we meet this crisis and challenge? We must remember that our reach is to be beyond our doors. Most of all, we must tell ourselves and the world that WE belong to God and to one another. We are belonging, behaving, and believing in Christ. With God, all things are possible!

Nancy

### ELDER/DEACON DEC ASSIGNMENTS

**Ushers:** Dianne Carr - 9:00 am;  
Rita Cline - 11:00 am

**Visitation:** Buzz Calek; Larry Hysler

### ATTENDANCE - NOV 29, 2015

Early Service: 21  
Sunday School: 54  
11 AM Service: 124

### FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT/ Week of 11-30-15

	Current YTD
Revenue	323,906.76
Expenses	359,482.50
Surplus (Deficit)	(35,575.74)
<b>Capital Campaign</b>	
Monthly Note	4,166.00
November Receive	2,990.00
October Needed	1,176.00

## VISITATION and CONTACTS

**Home Visits** - Billy & Jen Mann, Branden & Mandy Means, Keith & Ruth Ann Posey, Ken Carder, Balster Family

**Other Contacts** - Paul Luthman, Andy Kemp, Bruce Gunnels, Spence Pryor, Chick Flournoy

If you would like a visit, please call the church office (436-5731). Dr. Coker and our Elders/Deacons will be happy to come and pray with you.

### COVENANT CALENDAR

Day	Time	Activity
<b>Tuesday, Dec 8</b>	9:30 am	Bible Study
<b>Sunday, Dec 6</b>	9:00 am	Preschool
	2:30 pm	B & G Club
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	11:00 am	Worship;
	4:00pm	Bell Rehearsal
	Youth Fellowship - 6:50 - 8:00pm	
<b>Monday, Dec 7</b>	5:30 pm	WNS
	6:00 pm	Youth Bible Study
	2:30 pm	B & G Club
	4:15 pm	Staff Meeting
	5:00 pm	Evan Visits
	4:00 pm	Visitation Teams
	11:00 am	Bulletin Team
	11:00 am	Bulletin Team
	2:30 pm	B & G Club
	5:30pm - 7:30pm	Kids Musical Rehearsal & Party
	9:00 am	Preschool
	11:00 am	Bulletin Team
	2:30 pm	B & G Club
	3:30 pm	KiDsRoCk
	6:00 pm	Youth Bible Study
	6:45 pm	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Preschool
	9:00 am	Preschool
	9:00 am	Preschool

### SAVE THE DATE:

**December 7 - OPEL**  
Trip to Festival of Lights  
In Columbus

### PRAYER LIST MEMBERS

Allen Beamon  
Chase Coker  
Sue Cochran  
Susan Dupuy  
Nancy Frahlman  
Ryan Garnto  
Alice Hathcock  
Cyndi Jaeckel  
Family of Joo Kim  
Deidre Koster  
Supreeya Lopez  
Becky Martin  
Jessica McCall  
Mike McDonald  
Nancy Mitchell  
Martha Rawls  
Larry Sellers  
Family of Betty Strickland  
Thomas Sullivan  
Will Sullivan  
Gloria Weathers  
Susan Luthman (Paul Luthman's Mother)  
Linda Williamson

### RETIREMENT CENTERS

**Senior Living Village: Bea Phelps Decatur:** Pink Whelchel  
**Lee County:** Carolyn Barbree  
Norma Walters  
**Morningside:** Carol Kirkland, Sonny Campbell  
**Pruitt:** Rosemarie Barfield, **Valencia:** Mike Milam  
**Pine Shadows:** Jack Brand  
**MISSIONARIES**  
Scot Armistead family - **Pakistan**  
Elizabeth Coddington - **Armenia**  
Chuck Harper - **Honduras**  
Sandi & Brian Royer **Guatemala**  
**Robe Family - Ethiopia**

### FRIENDS/RELATIVES

Family of Chester Baltenberger  
Annette Bowling  
Leonard Buce  
Marilyn Bullington  
Joann Bryan  
Della Bunton  
Lloyd Cannady  
Family of Mildred Carder  
Family of Clay Chandler  
William Coleman  
Ashley Davis  
Family of John Davis  
Mildred Dreschel  
Debbie Drury  
Jarret Dunham  
Grant Evans  
Judy Dees  
Ross Gatlin  
William Gilbert  
Joy, Carrol, Will Harpole  
Bill Henson

Lynetta Herrington  
Kenzi Howell (friend of Phoebe)  
Lathan Hysler  
Al Jamison  
Mason Kiep  
Sarah Lee  
Jill Lusher (Cammie Coker Smith's friend)  
Courtney Mason  
Kendall Mann (Hendrix Masters)  
Charles McCauley  
Connie McCave  
Kari Middleton  
Sara Mock  
I.P. Murphy  
Vicki Musgrove  
Ellison Olinger  
Andy Pennington  
Dennis Pyles  
Bill Reiner  
Gabe Richardson  
Joan Riles  
Dee Sather  
Mary Snyder  
Troy Scott

Keith & Lori Smith  
Jacob Stanley  
Walter Swearingen  
Gage Taylor  
Colby Tucker  
Johnny Vorincus  
Cindy Wisham  
Mildred Yates  
Jean Hysler  
Stephanie Richardson  
Mark Taylor  
Ann Weathers  
Angela Fuller  
John Anderson  
Family of Mike Summerall  
Gene McCoy  
Creager Family  
Family of Lillian Fuller (Jimmy's Mother)  
Larry Wilson  
Carleene H. Zimmerman (Sue Henson's sister)

### STAFF

**Dr. William D Coker, Sr** Pastor  
**Chet Dreschel,** Music Director  
**Richard Miller,** Organist/Pianist  
**Eric Newman,** Youth Director  
**Cindy Garcia,** Preschool Dir.  
**Cindy Pickren,** Children's Dir.  
**Gail Korpel,** Admin Assistant  
**Nancy Reimer,** Dir of Ministries  
**Linda Walters,** Financial Sec  
**Michael Moss,** Treasurer  
**Ragan Elder,** Nursery  
**Dani Newman,** Nursery  
**Dwayne Johnson,** Sexton

### Gregory Cline, Sunday Sexton

**SUNDAY SCHOOL**  
**Joann Pope,** Superintendent  
**Nancy Reimer,** Asst Supt

**TRUSTEES**  
**Class of 2016:** Nelson Rushton  
**Class of 2017:** Lallie Benkoski  
**Class of 2018:** Larry Walters

### ELDER EMERITIAE

Sally M. Hairston  
Cecil Wrenn  
Palma James  
Barbara Nichols

### ELDER EMERITI

Lee James  
W. Pinckney Whelchel  
**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**  
**Cheryl Coker,** Moderator  
**Debbie Syfrett,** V. Moderator  
**Rita Cline,** Secretary  
**Deb Wilson,** Treasurer  
**PW CIRCLE MODERATORS**  
**Circle of Hope:** Myrtle Tarpley, Beth Flournoy  
**Circle of Faith:** Joy Carver, Sheila Ratliff

### SESSION

William Coker, Moderator  
Jay Smith, Clerk of Session  
**Class of 2016:** Buzz Calek, Donna Keel, Terry Lee, Ruby Pickron, Chris Smith  
**Class of 2017:** Jimmy Fuller, Steve Goss, Dan Pope, Larry Sellers  
**Class of 2018:** Jay Smith, Larry Hysler, Michael Moss, Lawson Vann, Ed Reaves

### DIACONATE

Judy Miller, Moderator  
Ben Strickland, Vice Moderator  
**Class of 2016:** Gail Allen, Carl Croft, Jake Hager, John Loomis, Margaret Merchant  
**Class of 2017:** Rita Cline, Tom Korpel, Judy Miller, Ben Strickland, Linda Walters  
**Class of 2018 -** Otis Moore, Chip Underdown, Victor Sullivan, Andrew Merchant, Sue Henson

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
2126 W. Edgewater Dr. Albany, GA 31707  
covpres1@gmail.com; www.covpc.org  
(229)436-5731

Covenant Presbyterian Church  
2126 W. Edgewater Drive  
Albany, GA 31707



## CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP

December 6, 2015

11:00 a.m.

Welcome, Announcements, Peace of Christ, Prayer Requests, Quiet Meditation

**Prelude:** Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming Traditional Christmas Melody  
Arranged by Michael Praetorius

### Call to Worship

Second Advent Candle - Candle of Peace  
Second Advent Lesson - Luke 2:8-14  
Second Advent Thoughts - Peace and Good Will  
Second Advent Prayer

### \*Red Hymnal #149

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

### WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD

A Time to be Generous with our Tithes and Our Offerings

**Offertory Anthem** Could This Be The Day? Joseph M. Martin

**A Message for the Young at Heart** (Children 4-5th grade exit for KEWL)

### WE CONFIRM OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

#### Introduction of Confirmands

#### Covenant Questions to Confirmands

**Leader:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and Lord and in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit?

**Youth: We do.**

**Leader:** Do you promise to turn away from evil in all its forms and rely upon the grace and love of God to guide you throughout your lives?

**Youth: We will.**

**Leader:** Do you commit yourselves to participate in the life of God's Church by worshiping, studying, giving, serving and sharing the love of Jesus with all people?

**Youth: We do.**

**Leader:** And to those of you who are being Baptized, do you understand that the Sacrament of Baptism is an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace that has come to us through Jesus?

**Youth: We do.**

#### Covenant Questions to the Congregation

**Leader:** Will you as a congregation promise to accept these young people into the life of our church and pray for them as often as you can?

**People: We will.**