

Welcome to Southminster

Christ's love is here for YOU!

Prayer Requests:

Jan Boehm, OB Chaffee (in Hospice at Signature Health Care Center, Marietta), Golda Fuller, Bill Hammond, Jamee Johnson, Chris LaVine serving in Afghanistan, Stella Moore (Ken's mother), Charles Nyaga (traveling mercies to and home from Kenya), Ify Noyelu (friend of BQ Orinika), The Packard family in the death of their daughter Michaela, Kaye Schuler, Janet Wright (long time member residing at Presbyterian Village), Julius Nyaga Church, our sister church in Magumoni Parish in Kenya

November 27, 2011 –Cherokee Presbytery Church of the Week: Woodstock Presbyterian Church, originally located in Lebanon, GA in 1867, and was called Bethesda. That church was destroyed by fire in 1916. In 1923 a new building was erected in Woodstock and the name changed to Woodstock. In 1986 Presbytery purchased five acres at the present location in south Cherokee County and assisted them with their first permanent building in 1996 at 345 Arnold Mill Road in Woodstock. Active membership is 51. The Reverend Julie Ferguson is Stated Supply Pastor. Clerk of Session is Keith Wood.

This Week's Calendar:

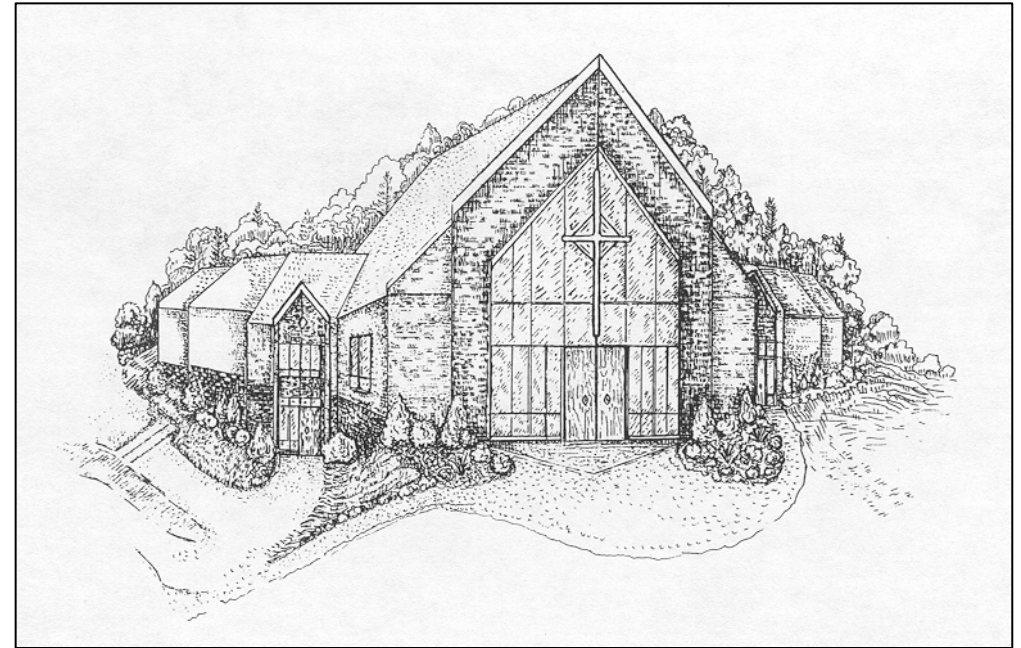
Today	Nov. 27	10:30 a.m.	Choir warm-up
		11:00 a.m.	Worship/Hanging of the Greens
Thursday	Dec. 1	7:00 p.m.	Choir rehearsal
Sunday	Dec. 4	10:30 a.m.	Choir warm-up
		11:00 a.m.	Worship/Holy Communion & PATH Offering
		11:30 a.m.	Children's Church

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, the choir will lead us in worship as the members raise their voices in praise. Music is central to our celebration of Advent and Christmas as we gather to give thanks and praise God for the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

HOW CAN YOU BE ONE OF SANTA'S ELVES?—The drop-off date is Wednesday, November 30, for delivering our collection of **Santa Claus Express** gifts to our designated church depot. This is the last Sunday for bringing your donations for this Christmas project. Each year Presbyterian Women celebrate this holiday with donations of gifts for the health services centers at Presbyterian Home, Quitman, and Presbyterian Village, Austell and the gifts are delivered to the health service residents by Santa himself! Please take one of the information bulletins on the front desk and select a few things from the list of suggested gift items if you haven't already put your donations in the decorated box at the church entrance. They must be given to Kate Tutwiler, SPC PW Moderator by Tuesday, November 29. To show your support financially, please contribute to the Christmas Angel Offering that goes to the *Presbyterian Homes of Georgia's Caring Hands Fund* which helps to sustain residents whose funds have been exhausted.

THE "PASSION CARDS", first collected on Stewardship Sunday, are included in the bulletin again this Sunday. A fuller explanation of those cards will be made during worship and you will be invited to fill them out and put them in the offering plate today.

Southminster Presbyterian Church



Welcome! There's a place for YOU at Southminster!

Proclaim Build Create Serve

The Reverend Peter M. Paulsen, Minister

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Southminster Presbyterian Church

November 27, 2011, 11:00 a.m. — First Sunday in Advent

Gathering

OPENING VOLUNTARY

(Please use the time before the service begins to review the announcements in the bulletin and to quietly prepare your heart for the worship of God.)

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

GREETINGS, WELCOME AND RITUAL OF FRIENDSHIP

*CALL TO WORSHIP Isaiah 2:2-3 alt

One: In the days to come the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hill; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say:

All: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that God may teach us God's ways and that we may walk in God's paths."

C. Nyaga: With what shall we come to God's house?

One: Bring branches of cedar and holly, bring evergreens and a pine tree, hang wreaths and garlands.

All: Make the church fragrant with the smell of living things and our holy play. In acts of hanging greens and listening to the words of prophets and seers let us make our hearts and this space a place of inward and outward preparation for the One who comes to give us second birth.

*HYMN 1 *"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"*

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION—Isaiah 64:1-9 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19

We have sinned, O God, and have broken our relationships with one another and with you. Forgive us. Restore us, O God, that we might be saved. Have mercy on us, and give us new life... *(Please use these moments of silence to offer your personal prayer of confession.)* Amen.

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE John 3:16-17

One: For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

All: Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

One: Believe that good news and go forth to live in peace

Assisting in worship today:

Pam Hudson—Church Musician
Dave Markle—Song Leader

Connie Swain—Pulpit Assistant
Kate Tutwiler—Children's Time

We thank all those who worked in preparation for this morning's service – some of whom are –

Lottie Kershaw
Pamela Hudson
Charles Nyaga
Robert "Whitey" James
Charlie Allen
William Kershaw
The Searles family

*All who are able, please stand.

Nursery provided—First floor

Our children are invited to remain in worship today for the Hanging of the Greens.

The Christmas Tree Speaks (verse 1)

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches

In summer sun or winter snow, a coat of green you always show

O Christmas tree, O Christmas tree, how lovely are your branches

***GLORIA PATRI (unison)** Hymn 579

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

(Please exchange greetings of peace with those near you.)

The Word

***HYMN 11**

“O Lord, How Shall I Meet You?”

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: Good Lord, by your mercy guide our outward actions in such ways that our inward being is formed in faith, hope, and love. May the decorations we offer engage our senses during the days of Advent and enliven our praise and worship, in the name of the child of Bethlehem, our risen and coming savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

CHILDREN’S TIME

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 64:1-9

Pew Bible, page 694

SPECIAL MUSIC

“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 24:36-44

Pew Bible, page 27

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

PREPARATION OF THE SANCTUARY

R. James: How shall we make this place a reminder of our need of repentance and the faithfulness and integrity that comes from God our maker and redeemer?

All: Let us hang wreaths as Hosea speaks the word of God:

R. James: A reading from Hosea, chapter 14:

I will heal [my people's] disloyalty; ...but transgressors stumble in them.

HYMN 22

“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”

C. Allen: God, the Holy One of Israel, is a God of comfort and compassion. With the Christmas tree we remember God’s everlasting promises to the poor and needy. Isaiah spoke of God’s making of the wilderness a place of blessing where water and plants, even pine trees, would manifest God’s loving action to save and provide.

All: Decorate the tree as we hear God’s word.

C. Allen: A reading from the prophet Isaiah, chapter 41:

When the poor and needy seek water...the Holy One of Israel has created it.

HYMN 28

“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”

W. Kershaw: Here in this place we prepare for the coming of the Lord. Here we will remember his Advent, his birth in Bethlehem, weak and helpless as an infant. And here we rekindle our prayer, “Come, Lord Jesus,” as we await his coming as the bright and morning star.

All: Hang symbols and signs of Christ – ruler, prophet, priest. Hang banners and paraments; place poinsettias and the Advent Candle to remind us of his identity, his story, and of the Holy Trinity.

W. Kershaw: A reading from the book of Revelation, chapter 22

"See, I am coming soon ... I am the Alpha and the Omega ... take the water of life as a gift."

HYMN 29

“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”

RECEPTION OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Searles family: LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

HYMN RESPONSE—(inside back cover)

“The Christmas Tree Speaks!”—verse 1

MEDITATION

Rev. Paulsen

Response to the Word

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** - The Apostles’ Creed (Traditional)

Page 14 in front of Hymnal

THE EUCHARIST

Offering of ourselves and our Gifts

Offertory

***Doxology**

*Prayer of dedication

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Great Thanksgiving

Lord’s Prayer

Breaking of the Bread

Communion of the People

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Sending

***HYMN 415**

“Come, Labor On”

***BENEDICTION**

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE Hymn 29 (vs. 3)** *“Go, Tell It on the Mountain”*

POSTLUDE