

# Southminster Presbyterian Church Newsletter – December 2010

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)  
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Southminster Presbyterian Church  
1507 Hurt Road  
Marietta, Georgia 30008  
770-436-4010  
FAX: 770-436-4027  
Web Site: [www.spcmarietta.org](http://www.spcmarietta.org)

Rev. Peter M. Paulsen, Minister  
Church: 770-436-4010  
Cell: 678-427-3329

Pam Hudson, Church Musician

*We believe God calls Southminster to **proclaim** the Good News of Jesus Christ, to **build** a fellowship of Christian love, to **create** an environment that nurtures spiritual growth, and to **serve** our diverse community and the world in the spirit of our Lord and Savior.*

## 2010 Church Session:

Pete Paulsen, Moderator

Candace Brisbane

Helen James

Whitey James

Bill Kershaw

Lottie Kershaw

Beverly Larsen

David Markle

Charles Nyaga

Linwood Swain

Kate Tutwiler

Linwood Swain, Clerk of Session  
Connie Swain, Disbursing Treasurer

## **Pastor's Letter**

I have this fantasy about my ancient Celtic ancestors, gathered around their hearth on an evening at this time of the year, wondering where the sun has gone and worrying a bit that it will never come back. Experience has taught them that it always does, but what if this is the year the cycle gets broken and the days just keep getting darker and darker until all life ends? In this story, humans are helpless and must wait on forces larger than themselves. That is exactly what Advent is all about.

Advent is about waiting in a cold and dark world, coming to trust promises that things will get better. Advent is about acknowledging our helplessness and trusting promises made. Advent is about recognizing that the world can be very frightening and holding fast to promises made.

In some ways our shopping and partying frenzy is a way of dealing with our human anxiety, a way of saying, 'I don't want to deal with my sense of dread so I will make noise and buy things and do things that make me feel good so I don't have to look at what's going on inside me and in the world.'

To that experience comes the promise that God loves us enough that Jesus was born, fully God for our redemption and fully human for our identification. In a cold and dark world where everything seems threatening comes the announcement, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." It is going to be OK. God is in the midst of human history and has already overcome the forces of cold and dark, the forces of evil. We can gather at our hearths and wonder when we can again plant in the warm earth, but we do not need to worry. The Son is with us and the Son will return. Advent is not only about waiting for the birth of Jesus; it is about the return of Jesus and the ultimate righting of the world to become the new heaven and the new earth. It is all good news on a cold night.

To your already packed calendars, we offer a number of programs and special events. I hope that you forego some of the world's chaos and merry-making to make merry in the church. It will in the long run be more helpful to you. If you can't, then I hope you will take advantage of what seems to meet your needs at this point. Each year we come to Advent (*continued*)

and to Lent, both periods of waiting, as different people. Some years we need the order of worship. Some years we need the joy of work for others. Some years we need the stimulation of Christian education or the comfort of prayer in a quiet environment. All those are yours through our programming this Advent season.

I encourage you to do something to strengthen your faith. As my mythological ancestors faced real challenges, so do we. We are in the middle of cosmic changes. Our grandchildren will live in a world radically different than the one that nurtured and still sustains us. The one constant is, God loves us. We can always spend time maturing in Christ but seasons like Advent give us a special opportunity to grow more deeply into the love and care of God. I encourage you to make Advent a time in which you leave the hearth in confidence and go look at the sky where the angels sang their song of hope.

Pete Paulsen

Don't forget . . .

To bring items for the mission baskets in the hall during the Christmas season to help those in need in the community.

## Presbyterian Women



"Hanging of the Greens" has become an integral part of the First Sunday of Advent service at Southminster along with the lighting of the first candle of the Advent wreath traditionally called "The Prophecy Candle." On November 28 as ornaments and other decorations were placed on the lighted tree, wreaths hung on the walls and doors around the sanctuary and building, we could again rejoice in the coming of Christ into the world in music and the spoken word. During this Advent Season as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, let us give thanks for all the ways we are blessed by God's Spirit at this Christmastime and all the ones before and to come. God's Son is the ultimate gift that we can be given. Through Christ, we have the privilege of being in God's family and having the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We can share Christ with others through our words, works and deeds. We are grateful to all who contributed on November 21 to the PW THANK OFFERING for 2010, an important gift separate but an extension of our mission pledge support. At least 40 percent of the national collection is allocated for health ministries around the world; the remainder used to fund carefully selected proposals dealing with issues of domestic violence, homelessness, child services, education and injustice.

Heartfelt thanks to all who have brought gifts to the *Santa Express* container for the health services residents at Presbyterian Homes in Quitman, and at Presbyterian Village to be used not only for Christmas but throughout the year. The baskets under the Mission Table are indeed a reflection of your year-long spirit of giving: for C.A.M.P., Highest Praise Church food pantry, Gifts for Soldiers and the Haiti Health Kits. Each donation is appreciated and blesses someone.

We shall be learning soon about how we can help children of Hollydale Elementary School in need of our generous consideration and cheer.



## Mark Your Calendar

Monday, December 13 - Evening Circle at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Mary York, 3295 Doyle Lane, Marietta (770-319-8967), Pat Dunn, Leader

Tuesday, December 14 - Day Circle at 10:00 a.m. in the Magnolia Room, Presbyterian Village, Helen James, Leader

Lesson 4 of the Circles' Bible Study of Revelation is entitled "Diagnosing the Crises of Empire" with its key idea: "The frightening images that come from the opening of the first six seals reveal to John's audience and to us the dangers of an unjust (Roman) empire." Come join in the discussion and bring a friend.

## Worship Schedule



### December 5

2nd Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 11:1-10

Matthew 3:1-12

*You brood of vipers!*

Communion

PATH Offering

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

### December 12

3rd Sunday of Advent

Lessons and Carols Service

Choir Program

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

### December 19

4th Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 7:10-16

Matthew 1:18-25

*Two versions of Christmas*

Joy Gift Offering

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

### December 24

One Service – 6:00 p.m. at  
Calvary Presbyterian Church

Isaiah 9:2-7

Luke 2:1-20

*The Mess in Bethlehem*

Rev. Pete Paulsen, Preacher

### December 26

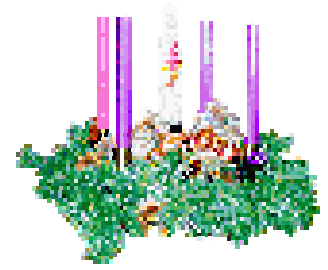
1st Sunday after Christmas

One Service – 10:00 a.m. at  
Woodlawn Presbyterian Church

11:00 a.m. – Party and Meal

## ***The Spirit of Advent***

Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for deliverance from the evils of the world, first expressed by Israelite slaves in Egypt as they cried out from their bitter oppression. It is the cry of those who have experienced the tyranny of injustice in a world under the curse of sin, and yet who have hope of deliverance by a God who has heard the cries of oppressed slaves and brought deliverance!



It is that hope, however faint at times, and that God, however distant He sometimes seems, which brings to the world the anticipation of a King who will rule with truth and justice and righteousness over His people and in His creation. It is that hope that once anticipated, and now anticipates anew, the reign of an Anointed One, a Messiah, who will bring peace and justice and righteousness to the world. Part of the expectation also anticipates a judgment on sin and a calling of the world to accountability before God. We long for God to come and set the world right! Yet, as the prophet Amos warned, the expectation of a coming judgment at the "Day of the Lord" may not be the day of light that we might want, because the penetrating light of God's judgment on sin will shine just as brightly on God's people.

Because of this important truth, especially in the Eastern Orthodox Churches, the Season of Advent has been a time of fasting and penitence for sins similar to the Season of Lent. However, a different emphasis for the season of Advent has gradually unfolded in much of the rest of the church. The season of Advent has come to be celebrated more in terms of expectation or anticipation. Yet, the anticipation of the Coming of the Messiah throughout the Old Testament and Judaism was not in connection with remembrance of sins. Rather, it was in the context of oppression and injustice, the longing for redemption, not from personal guilt and sin but from the systemic evil of the world expressed in evil empires and tyrants. It is in that sense that all creation groans for its redemption as we witness the evil that so dominates our world (Rom 8:18-25). Of course, there is the problem of longing for vindication from an evil world when we are contributors to that evil. This is the power of the images of Amos when he warns about longing for the "Day of the Lord" that will really be a day of darkness (Amos 5:18-20). Still, even with Amos' warning the time of Advent is one of expectation and anticipation, a longing for God's actions to restore all things and vindicate the righteous. This is why during Advent we as Christians also anticipate the Second Coming as a twin theme of the season. So, while some church traditions focus on penitence during Advent, and there remains a place for that, the spirit of that expectation from the Old Testament is better captured with a joyous sense of expectancy. Rather than a time of mourning and fasting, Advent is celebrated as a time of joy and happiness as we await the coming of the King.

## **SESSION COMMITTEES**

### **Financial Committee**

David Markle, Chair  
Receiving Treasurer, Bookkeeper,  
Stewardship, Disbursing Treasurer,  
Budget, Bank Account

### **Resource Committee**

Whitey James, Chair  
Repairs, Landscaping/lawn  
mowing/gardening, Outdoor  
Lighting, Building and Cleaning  
Supplies, Personnel, Signage,  
Maintenance, Parking Lot,  
Housekeeping, Building Use  
Agreement/Contracts, Audit

### **Fellowship Committee**

Beverly Larsen, Chair  
Organize all fellowship activities  
(inside and outside of the church),  
Organize (decorate and provide  
food) for all meal functions,  
Oversee weddings and other  
building-use functions, Oversee PW  
handling funeral receptions

### **Christian Education Committee**

Helen James, Chair  
Children's Church, Nursery,  
Presbyterian Women, Youth Group  
Confirmation Class, Sunday School,  
Small Groups, Presbyterian Men,  
Vacation Bible School

### **Care Committee**

Kate Tutwiler, Chair  
Intercessory Prayer, Community  
Missions, Global Mission,  
Caring/Sharing Fund, Community  
Projects, Pastoral Care,  
Shepherding

### **Worship/Evangelism Committee**

Lottie Kershaw, Chair  
Communion for those in  
confinement, New Member's  
Classes, Greeting and Assimilation  
of New Members, Oversee all  
Worship Needs, Evangelical  
Events/Promotions/Mailings,  
Greeters, Newsletter,  
Communication, Communion,  
Doorstep Visitation,  
Publicity/Promotions, Sanctuary  
Set-up/Décor, Music, Directory,  
Bulletins

## What's happening in December?



On Sunday, December 5, we will light the Second Advent Candle during morning worship. We will celebrate the Lord's Supper and receive the P. A.T.H. Offering.

Presbyterian Women Evening Circle will meet on Monday, December 13 at 7:30 at the home of Mary York and the Day Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 14 at 10:00 a.m. in the Magnolia Room, Presbyterian Village. Pat Dunn and Helen James are Circle Leaders.

Evening Prayer will be at 7:00 p.m. on December 14 and 28 at the home of Jan Boehm, Presbyterian Village, Apartment 208.

Presbyterian Men will meet for breakfast and Bible study on Saturday, December 18 at 7:30 a.m.

On Sunday, December 19 the Joy Gift Offering will be received during worship and *Nickels for NAMI* will be collected following worship.



On Monday evenings Charles Nyaga and Golda Fuller are offering a Bible study class at the church. Contact Charles (770-222-5252) or Golda (770-612-8414) for more information.

Advent is a season of hoping and singing. On December 12 our congregation will join our choir in singing our faith and listening to the great promises of God. Please come and add your voice to the chorus of angels.

On Christmas Eve the folk at Woodlawn and Southminster will join the folk at Calvary for the Christmas Eve service at 6:00 p.m. at Calvary. It will be a candlelight service with Communion. Everyone is invited including those who may be visiting for the holidays.

On Sunday, December 26, we will worship with the Woodlawn folk at their building. The service will be at 10:00 a.m. followed by a time of caroling and a meal. All are invited.

Looking ahead: On Sunday, January 9, 2011, we will install our new elders during morning worship.

The next newsletter will be the January issue. Turn your information in to Betty Cheek by December 26 to give time for preparation and printing.



## Choir News



The Southminster Worship Choir rehearses on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. Choir warm-up time is 10:30 a.m. each Sunday morning. New Choir members are always welcome.

## Congratulations to Jarod Dunn!

On November 6, Jarod Dunn was accepted into the Order of the Arrow in Boy scouting. He is in Troop 22 in Smyrna and his rank is Life. Jarod has been in scouting since second grade.

## Building Use Schedule

### Seventh Day Adventist

Friday 7:30 - 9:30 a.m.

Saturday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
4:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

### Assembly of Saints

Sunday 4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Tuesday 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Thursday 8:00 - 12:00 p.m.

## December Birthdays



4th - Gail Draper  
6th - Whitey James  
9th - Candace Brisbane  
9th - Carla Calhoun  
16th - Golda Fuller  
16th - Bob Shelor  
23rd - Sherland Young  
25th  
- Linwood Swain  
27th - Eziada Ozor  
31st - Amanda Cheek



If your birthday is not listed, please let us know by writing your name and birth date on a piece of paper and placing it in the offering plate or mailing it to the church office.

## Your Help is Needed



Refuge West Church, 2200 Powder Springs Road, #156, Marietta, GA 30064 is preparing to provide 200 families in our community with what they need for a Christmas celebration. This is a program for at-risk families as identified through our schools. The program will include a hot meal, a toy for each child, and enough food to get the family through two weeks -- just a little less than the time of the school holiday. These children get the bulk of their meals through the school breakfast and lunch program, not available during the holiday. Volunteer to help with this important community mission. Prep days are December 1, 8, 12, and 15, at 7:00 p.m. at the church. There are three party times: Friday, December 17 at 5:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Financial support is also welcome. For more details please see Pete Paulsen.



## If you have not made your 2011 pledge . . .

The Stewardship Committee is working to set the budget for 2011, based on pledges received. To date 27 pledges totaling \$131,155 have been received for regular budget expenses for 2011 and 16 pledges totaling \$137,620 have been received for mortgage balance reduction over the next three years.

## December Newsletter Session Report

**At its stated meeting on November 14, 2010, Session took the following actions:**

- ❖ Examined Jarod Dunn regarding his intentions to become a member of Southminster Presbyterian Church, authorized his request for baptism at the Presbyterian Village swimming pool on January 9, 2011, at 12:30 p.m., and ordered his reception into church membership following his baptism.
- ❖ Examined elders-elect, Beverly Larsen and Jennifer Whitehead, to serve in the Elder Class of 2013 and set their date of installation for Sunday, January 9, 2011. .
- ❖ Approved the minutes of the October 10 Stated Session Meeting.
- ❖ Approved the names of three members to be asked by the Financial Committee to serve as Southminster's Bookkeeper.
- ❖ Approved the use of the Fellowship Hall for a fund-raising event with proceeds designated for the support of the Scott's School in Haiti. The event date will be announced later.
- ❖ Scheduled the next Stated Session meeting for Sunday, December 12, 2010, @ 1 PM.

**At a called meeting on November 21, 2010, Session took the following actions:**

- ❖ Approved a major maintenance project in an amount not to exceed \$8500 to include: a) the painting of the exterior walls of the original building with elastomeric paint, b) the painting of the ceiling and walls in the sanctuary, and c) the painting of the halls and baseboards on the upper level.
- ❖ Session approved to change our previous worship plans on Christmas Eve and on Sunday, December 26, to include the Calvary, Ghanaian Presbytery Church of Ghana - New Church Development, and Woodlawn congregations as follows: a) On Christmas Eve we will still worship at 6:00 p.m. All four of the congregations will worship together at Calvary, b). On December 26, at 10:00 a.m., we will all go to Woodlawn for a carol sing worship service followed by caroling and a fellowship meal.
- ❖ Session approved to support the Christmas Celebration 2010 events at the Refuge West Church on Friday, December 17 at 7 pm, and December 18 at 11:30 am and 3 pm by volunteering for the various event tasks and making donations.

- ❖ Approved the name of an additional member to be asked by the Financial Committee to serve as Southminster's Bookkeeper.



## *December 2010 Worship Responsibilities*



	<i>December 5</i>	<i>December 12</i>	<i>December 19</i>	<i>December 26</i>
	<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>3rd Sunday of Advent Lessons and Carols</i>	<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>	<i>1st Sunday after Christmas</i>
Preacher	Pete Paulsen	Pete Paulsen	Pete Paulsen	
Pulpit Assistant	Dave Markle	Carmen Freemire	Betty Cheek	Kate Tutwiler
Greeters	Linwood Swain Connie Swain	Martha Markle Pat Dunn	Mike Kerns Jill Kerns	Beverly Larsen Lottie Kershaw
Children's Time	Pete Paulsen	Jennifer Whitehead	Jackie Searles	Pat Mukora
Children's Church	Beverly Larsen Nicole Larsen	Doin Kibaara Mary York	Rosalie Morgan Nicole Larsen	Helen James Jarod Dunn
Communion Preparation	Mary York Candace Brisbane			
Communion Serves	Whitey James Helen James Chris Curschmann Rosalie Morgan	<downstairs <pulpit area		
Offering Counters	Neal & Betty Cheek	Neal & Betty Cheek	Linwood & Connie Swain	Linwood & Connie Swain
Nursery	Gail Draper	Gail Draper	Gail Draper	Gail Draper
Session Meeting		Food – Lottie Kershaw		

If you have a conflict with the date you are scheduled, please call the church office, 770-436-4010 and talk with Pete Paulsen, or call Lottie Kershaw at 770-378-8558, or find a replacement.

### Financial Information January through October

Operating receipts: \$168,739  
 Operating Expenses: \$139,964  
 Net Income: \$28,775

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#### Special Offering Receipts January through October

Haitian Relief - \$272  
 NAMI - \$111.76  
 One Great Hour - \$1275  
 PATH - \$951.74  
 Mother's Day - \$294  
 Pew Upholstery Fund - \$5319  
Building Use: \$16,550

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Mortgage Reduction Received: \$39,466  
 Mortgage Reduction Paid: \$44,100  
 In addition to our regular payments.

## Southminster Presbyterian Church – December 2010

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<b>Sunday Morning Schedule</b> 9:30 a.m. – Adult Sunday School 10:30 – Choir Warm-up 11:00 a.m. – Worship Nursery Provided			1 Worship Committee 7:00 p.m. – Resource Committee	2 7-8:30 – Choir Rehearsal (New Choir Members Welcome)	3	4
5 2nd Sunday of Advent Communion PATH Offering	6 Bible Study with Chris C/Charles N	7 11:00 a.m. – Communion Service @ Calvary 7:00 – Tuesday Evening Prayer at Jan Boehm's	8	9 7-8:30 – Choir Rehearsal (New Choir Members Welcome)	10	11
12 3rd Sunday of Advent Lesson and Carols Service Session Meeting	13 7:30 – PW Evening Circle at home of Mary York	14 10:00 – PW Morning Circle at PV	15	16 7-8:30 – Choir Rehearsal (New Choir Members Welcome)	17 5:30 – Party at Refuge West Church	18 7:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 and 2:00 – Party at Refuge West Church
19 4th Sunday of Advent NAMI Nickel Sunday Joy Offering	20 Bible Study with Chris C/Charles N	21 7:00 – Tuesday Evening Prayer at Jan Boehm's	22	23 7-8:30 – Choir Rehearsal (New Choir Members Welcome)	24 6:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service @ Calvary PC	25 Christmas Day <div style="text-align: center;">  </div>
26 1st Sunday after Christmas 10:00 a.m. Worship at Woodlawn with caroling and a meal	27 Bible Study with Chris C/Charles N	28	29	30	31	

