

December Volunteers

Early Service Prayers

7 Rich Dunham
14 Peggy Bailey
21 Carol Cason
28 Julie Lanard

Late Service Lay Leaders

Sarah Scott
Mike Nelson
Scott or Beth Norris
Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

Elders of the Week

Chris Whatley, Louie Boyd
Gary Huff, Mickey Register
Carl Cartledge, Cathy Norman
Lanse Patterson, Chris Wilson

Communion Servers 12/07

Early Service: Lynn Bloodworth
Late Service: Louise Hyers, Cathy Norman, Mickey Register, Deb Williams, Chris Wilson

Traditional Service Ushers

7 Cecil & Bonnie Pinkerton and Mickey & Christine Register
14 Bob & Brenda Glasscock and Daryl & Ginny Moody
21 Phil & Frances Gibson and Duncan & Margaret McGilvray
28 Jeani Goodwin, Sylvia Mayo, Jerry McColery, Arlene Peters

Contemporary Service Usher

Deb Williams
Deb Williams
Deb Williams
Deb Williams

Sunday Gathering Hosts

Early

7 Deb Williams
8 Rick & Julie Lanard
21 Keith & Stacie McDonough
28 Jeff & Terri Riley

Late

Mike Swanson & Paige Cummings
Wayne & Kim Peacock
Stuart & Sharon Thomas and Bonnie & Cecil Pinkerton
Scott & Beth Norris

December Calendar

Tuesday	2	Knitting Group @ 1:30 p.m.— Room 218
Wednesday	3	WOW @ 9:30 a.m.— Room 100
Wednesday	3	Wonderful Wednesday @ 5:45 p.m.— Fellowship Hall
Thursday	4	Presbyterian Women Christmas Luncheon @ 12:00 p.m.— Athens Country Club
Thursday	4	Bridge Club @ 1:30 p.m.— Room 218
Thursday	4	WOW @ 6:30 p.m.— Room 218
Friday	5	NMLB @ 6:50 a.m.— Room 100
Friday	5	Noon Day Kitchen @ 11:00 a.m.
Friday	5	DAR Lunch @ 12:00 p.m.— Fellowship Hall
Sunday	7	Communion Sunday
Sunday	7	Children's Christmas Musical @ 9:40 a.m.— Sanctuary
Monday	8	NAMI (Mental Health) @ 7:30 p.m.— Room 106
Tuesday	9	Knitting Group @ 1:30 p.m.— Room 218
Wednesday	10	WOW @ 9:30 a.m.— Room 100
Wednesday	10	Church Christmas Party @ 5:45 p.m.— Fellowship Hall
Thursday	11	Bridge Club @ 1:30 p.m.— Room 218
Thursday	11	WOW @ 6:30 p.m.— Room 218
Thursday	11	Community Christmas Sing @ 7:00 p.m.— Sanctuary
Friday	12	NMLB @ 6:50 a.m.— Room 100
Tuesday	16	Cruisers Lunch @ 12:00 p.m.— Fellowship Hall
Tuesday	16	Knitting Group @ 1:30 p.m.— Room 218
Tuesday	16	Athens/Oconee Junior Women's Club @ 6:30 p.m.— Fellowship Hall
Wednesday	17	WOW @ 9:30 a.m.— Room 100
Wednesday	17	Mending Ministry @ 2:00 p.m.— Grandview
Thursday	18	Bridge Club @ 1:30 p.m.— Room 218
Thursday	18	WOW @ 6:30 p.m.— Room 218
Friday	19	NMLB @ 6:50 a.m.— Room 100
Sunday	21	Neighborhood Caroling @ 4:30 p.m.— Fellowship Hall
Sunday	21	Central's College Students Chili Supper @ 6:00 p.m.— Fellowship Hall
Sunday	21	Longest Night of the Year Service @ 7:30 p.m.— Sanctuary
Wednesday	24	Family Christmas Eve Service @ 5:00 p.m.— Sanctuary
Wednesday	24	Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service @ 11:00 p.m.— Sanctuary
Thursday	25	Christmas Day — Office Closed
Friday	26	Office Closed
Sunday	28	Family Covered Dish Supper @ 6:00 p.m.— Fellowship Hall
Monday	29	Office Closed
Tuesday	30	Office Closed
Wednesday	31	Office Open from 9:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.

Nursery

Robin Davis
Lisa Peterson
Amanda Kirk
Eva Nelson

Chancel Flowers

Poinsettias
Poinsettias
Poinsettias
De Marias

December Advent Candle Lighters

Contemporary Service

Jeff and Alicia Marker
Jerry and Chrissy Hayes
George Nunnally & Carol Cason

Traditional Service

David and Ashley Wells
Scott & Beth Norris
Wayne and Kim Peacock

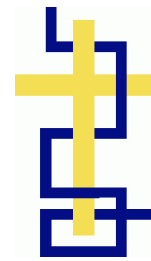
Dec. 24 @ 5pm

David & Marie Clark

Dec. 24 @ 11:00 p.m.

Curtis Nessel & Jo Carol Nessel-Sale

SUNDAYS	
Contemporary Worship	8:40 a.m.
Sunday School	9:40 a.m.
Traditional Worship	11:00 a.m.
Nursery	8:40 a.m. - noon
Gathering	10:40 a.m.
WEDNESDAYS	
Dinner	5:45-6:30 p.m.
Kidz Club & Preteen Xtreme	6:15 p.m.
Midders Youth Group	6:30 p.m.
Senior High Youth Group	6:30 p.m.
Adult Studies	6:30 p.m.
MUSIC SCHEDULE	
Praise Team	Thu @ 6:00 p.m.
Chancel Choir	Wed @ 7:30 p.m.
HandBell Choir	Tue @ 12:30 p.m.
	Wed @ 7:30 p.m.
Children's Choir	Sun @ 9:40 a.m.



CENTRAL SCENES *December 2008*

The monthly newsletter of Central Presbyterian Church of Athens, GA

Celebrate the Season at Central

Sunday, December 7th

Second Sunday in Advent

Communion at 8:40 and 11:00 a.m. services

Children's Christmas Musical at 9:40 a.m. — Sanctuary

Radio studio "J-O-Y" sets the stage where a local children's choir and their pastor present the Christmas story while being interviewed by disc jockey celebrity "Dec Jay." Throughout the on-air show, characters from the Christmas story share how their lives were touched by the Savior's birth while radio reporters intersperse breaking news stories that coincidentally mirror the events of the very first Christmas!

Wednesday, December 10th

Church Christmas Party at 5:45 p.m. — Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy dinner, Christmas Trivia games, cookie decorating, and carol singing. The Kidz Club will have their annual Birthday Party for Jesus

Thursday, December 11th

Community Christmas Sing at 7:00 p.m. — Sanctuary

The *Women to the World* sponsor an evening of carol singing and program, hosted at Central.

Sunday, December 14th

Third Sunday in Advent

Chancel Choir Cantata at 11:00 a.m. — Sanctuary

Saturday, December 20th

Christmas Concert at 4:00 p.m. — Gathering Area

Meridian Women's Choir and Central's Handbell Choir

Sunday, December 21st

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Collection of the Joy Gift Offering at both services

Neighborhood Caroling at 4:30 p.m. — Fellowship Hall

Chili Supper for Central's College Students at 6:00 p.m. — Fellowship Hall

Longest Night of the Year Service at 7:30 p.m. — Sanctuary

On the longest night of the year, Central's laity will offer a special service of comfort and hope. It will be a quiet time of prayer, encouragement, reflection, and healing.

Wednesday, December 24th

Family Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. — Sanctuary

Children present the Nativity as the story is read from the Scriptures.

Candlelight Communion Christmas Eve Service at 11:00 p.m. — Sanctuary

Sunday, December 28th

Family Night Supper at 6:00 p.m. — Fellowship Hall

Special Interest

- Communion
Sunday, Dec. 7
- Christmas
Thursday, Dec. 25
- Church Office Closed
Thursday, Dec. 25
Friday, Dec. 26
Monday, Dec. 29
Tuesday, Dec. 30



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8:30am-12:30pm; 1-4:30pm.

Member News



Happy Birthday

1 st	Brennan Shepstone
2 nd	Michelle Amouroux Jeani Goodwin Janice Johnson
3 rd	Connor Bachman Sabrina Davis Maggie De Maria
6 th	James Pinkerton
9 th	Stephen Bailey Bob Burton David Gast
11 th	James Ward
15 th	David Clark Ken Duke
17 th	Phil Johnson
18 th	Kristen Brooks Jim Cooley
21 st	Dion Muldrow Jack Martin Joey Rejmer Mark Rejmer
22 nd	Barb Laughlin
24 th	Amelia Norman
25 th	Melinda De Maria Hayden Guest
26 th	Miki Parcells Will Stanley
27 th	John Goodrum
28 th	Patty Brooks
29 th	Regina Clonts Bill Hargrove Seth Urich
30 th	Cate De Maria Katharine Field

From the Pastor's Study

Greetings,

Helen Keller once said, "The only blind person at Christmas is the one who does not have Christmas in their heart." As we move into the month of December, we enter the Christmas season. What is Christmas all about? As Americans it is about many things. Our lives will be full of shopping, Christmas carols, parties, and Christmas goodies. All these seek to represent some of the goodness that Christmas holds, either through the celebration of valued relationships, the giving of gifts, or the singing of joyous songs. There is a great temptation to give in to the frustrations of a busy schedule during this month. Life can become crowded and hectic.

But the reason behind Christmas is what gives it all meaning. That God would send his only Son into our world is a miracle beyond expectation. It is the foundation for all the activities and bustle. Charles Dickens once said, "I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round, as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys." We are entering a wonderful season of the year.

May we strive to "have Christmas in our heart" and remember Christ our Lord, born in such a humble way.

In His service,
Bob
Bob Bohler

Session News

- At the congregational meeting on November 23rd the following were elected as Elders: Class of 2011: Doug Bailey, Paige Cummings, Joelle Dunham, Naomi Lupton, and Wayne Peacock. Class of 2010: Alan Coleman, Sarah Fox. They will be installed in January.
- Please remember that December is a very important time of the year in our church budget. It is the time when people tend to catch up with their pledges and even make an extra gift to recognize God's bounty. The Session sets its budget according to the pledges we make. Thank you for being faithful to your commitments and making the ministry of the church possible. Giving Statements will be mailed December 15th. All gifts must be postmarked or in the church office by December 31st to be counted as 2008 contributions. The church office

The last Wednesday night program of 2008 is a Christmas Party on December 10th from 5:45-7:15 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The Youth will host the adults with Christmas trivia games, carol sing-a-longs, and cookie decorating while the Kidz Club has their own Birthday Party for Jesus. Dinner is Buffalo's chicken cheese pasta, salad, rolls, dessert. \$5 Adult, \$2 children under 12, and Family Maximum \$15. We invite everyone to this festive event!

JOHN CALVIN IS 500!!

2009 is the 500th year birthday of John Calvin, the father of Presbyterian theology. His major written work is called The Institutes of the Christian Religion. It is his "systematic theology." This means that it is a systematic exposition of the Christian faith, from beginning to end. It does not overview the Bible, but rather tries to systematize Christian theological thinking on the various topics important to our faith.

How would you like to read through Calvin's Institutes during 2009? You can! There is a reading list available that breaks the 1,521 pages into daily readings. You only have to read about 6 pages each day, five days a week for the year. And in this reading plan, you get holidays off!

I plan to read through the Institutes during 2009. If you would like to join me, I would love to have you do so. We will put together a discussion group that will meet regularly (maybe monthly). It would be a great way to learn about the faith from one of the undisputed masters of Christian theology. Call the church office and leave your name.

~ Bob Bohler

Gathering

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner is from 5:45 - 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Adults \$5, children under 12 \$2, family maximum \$15. To-Go boxes are \$4. December 3rd menu is Barberito's burritos, chips & salsa, dessert.

Presbyterian Women's Christmas Luncheon is Thursday, December 4th at 12:00 p.m. at the Athens Country Club. PW will have 2 circle meetings starting on January 12th, at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. The new evening circle will be led by Chrissy Hayes. Call Melody Cartledge 706-316-1818.

Cruisers Lunch is Tuesday, December 16th at 12:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Lunch is \$6. Program: *Christmas in France*. Plan to join us for fun, fellowship, and food. RSVP to the church office 706-549-9284.

Family Night Supper is Sunday, December 28th at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. No need to RSVP - just bring a covered dish to share! Call Regina Clonts 706-769-3234 or Alan Coleman 706-543-8902 for information.

The Knitting Group meets every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. in Room 218. Call Jill Clement at 706-548-1232.

The Bridge Club meets every Thursday at 1:30 p.m. in Room 218. Call Charlie Cook at 706-549-9161. Will NOT meet on December 25th - Christmas Day.

The Women to the World Community Christmas Sing is Thursday, December 11th at 7:00 p.m. in Central's Sanctuary. *Women to the World* is an international Christian organization headquartered in Athens that works to improve the lives of disenfranchised women and children around the world. Concert is free and open to the public. A love offering will be taken.

The Meridian Women's Choir & Central's Handbell Choir Christmas Concert is Saturday, December 20th at 4:00 p.m. in the Gathering space. The Meridian Choir is a local community women's choir under the directorship of Jill Crandall. The concert is free and open to the public.

Chili Supper for Central's College Students and their families is Sunday, December 21st at 6:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The youth will prepare supper. Come welcome home our college students and enjoy a delicious meal.

Growing

KIDZ ROCK SUNDAY SCHOOL
3 yrs.-PreK Room 200
K-1st grade Room 201
2nd-3rd grade Room 202

PRETEEN XTREME SUNDAY SCHOOL
4th-5th grade Room 207

JUST4YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL
Middlers (6th-8th grade) Room 106
Sr. High (9th-12th grade) Room 105

ADULTS SUNDAY SCHOOL
Bible Adventures Class Room 100
Leader: Class Members *The Resurrection*
Sola Scripture Class Room 208
Leaders: Class Members *Bible Study*
Discovery Class Room 211
Leaders: Rich & Joelle Dunham

Biblical Answers to Modern Problems
Friendship Class Room 216
Leader: Jeani Goodwin *Becoming a Butterfly*
Road Less Travelled Class Room 218
Leader: Jo Carol Nasset-Sale *God, Man, & Suffering*
Simply Christian Class Room 206
Leaders: Class Members *The Ministry of Jesus*

ADULT BIBLE STUDY
NMLB Fri. at 6:50 p.m. Room 100

WOW Wed. at 9:30 a.m. Room 100
Thu. at 6:30 p.m. Room 218

The Longest Night of the Year Service is Sunday, December 21st at 7:30 p.m. On this night, we gather in the sanctuary in a candlelit service and celebrate the hope and the gifts found in darkness with music, singing, candle lighting, prayerful liturgy, and quiet meditation. We invite you to join us and come to God as you are for this service of peace, hope and remembrance. No offering will be taken. Hot cider and cookies will follow in the fellowship hall. In the midst of a season that carols "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" and "Joy to the World", there are many who cannot make a joyful noise. Even lighthearted persons sometime need a respite from the incessant commercial noise of the season that threatens to drown out the cries of the newborn child. So we pause and on the night of the Winter Solstice set aside time to enter into the rest and restoration available to us in darkness. As part of this year's service, we will be lighting candles for, and acknowledging by name, loved ones separated from us this Christmas, whether by distance or death. Send your loved one's name and any information you would like included to Jo Carol Nasset-Sale at jcnassetale@gmail.com.

Going

The Noon Day Kitchen is Friday, December 5th at 11 am. Call Wes Clonts at 706-769-3234.

The Mending Ministry is Wednesday, December 17th at 2 pm at Grandview. Call Melody Cartledge at 706-316-1818.

The Food Basket needs dry pasta, cereal, crackers, and paper bags.

The PW Santa Claus Express box is in the hallway by Fellowship Hall. The Presbyterian Women collect items for Christmas gifts for the residents of Georgia's Presbyterian Homes and Villages. A list of approved items is on the box. Deadline is December 3rd. Call Melody Cartledge at 706-316-1818.

The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected on Sunday, December 23rd. 50% of the receipts support retired and active church workers and their families and 50% supports PCUSA racial/ethnic schools.

Poinsettias for Central's homebound members are \$12. The form will be in the bulletin on December 7 & 14. Remember a loved one at Christmas.

IHNA 2009 Calendars feature all the participating IHNA host churches. They are \$15 each and available at the Day Center on West Hancock Ave. or call 706-425-1881.

Holiday Benevolence Market is Sunday, December 7th 12-3 pm at Milledge Avenue Baptist Church. Money raised benefits local charities. Call Mary Burton 706/543-9619.