

ST. LUKE'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



Artwork by John McGurk, Age 7

Service of Lessons and Carols

11:00 a.m. December 15, 2013

Third Sunday of Advent

Our Mission: Responding to God's call and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we invite all to join us in knowing, serving, and sharing Jesus Christ here and around the world.

Our Vision: To be a beacon of faith, hope, and love—every member an active disciple in Christ's ministry.



ST. LUKE'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)
1978 Mt. Vernon Road
Dunwoody, Georgia 30338-4617
770-393-1424 www.slpres.org

8:30 a.m. Chapel Communion Service

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Sanctuary Worship Service

Nursery provided for all services and Sunday School

Office Hours: M-F, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dr. Jason Whitener, Pastor

Rev. Shannon Dill, Associate Pastor

Rev. Phil Brown, Associate Pastor

Dr. E. Moss Robertson, Pastor Emeritus

WELCOME, GUESTS!

We are delighted you are worshipping with us!
As a guest, you are invited to:

1. During the **Celebration of Community**, please print the requested information on the Friendship Pad and pass the Friendship Pad down the pew.
2. After the worship service, please join Deacon Rebecca Strickland, Elder Jim Bryant, and our Pastors in the Narthex (Sanctuary lobby). They will answer questions and provide you with a Guest Packet and a loaf of bread lovingly made by St. Luke's member, Cindy Nunez.
3. If you are interested in learning more about St. Luke's or are interested in joining, please contact Jason Whitener: jasonwhitener@slpres.org or 770-393-1424, ext. 223.

DECEMBER 15, 2013
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The flowers today are given:

- by the Holley-Wolfe family to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Anne McClurkin Wolfe, birth mother of Hayley and Chris Wolfe; and
- by Sally Joyce in memory of Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Swift

SERVING TODAY

Acolytes..... Dorothy Kitchens, Supervisor
Crucifer..... Valentina Thelen
Candle Lighter Catherine Gorman
Banner Bearer..... Reagan McGurk
Bell Ringer Mary Frances Kitchens
Bible Bearer..... Rebecca Miller

Chancel Guild..... Nancy Self

Ushers Bob Johnson, Captain;
Dwight & Sally Shelton; J.J., Laura and Jack Singley

Continental Breakfast..... Diane Beidl

Faithful Friends Ly Douglass

Greeters Jim Bryant, Gena Spears

Nursery Supervisor..... Holly McMillan

Open/Close Josh Nunez

Sound Crew Bob Burroughs



That All May Worship: St. Luke's strives to be a welcoming church for all. Assistive hearing devices, large print hymnals, large print bulletins and pew cushions are available. Please contact an usher for further assistance.

Parents: During the worship service, if necessary, the parlor is a comfortable place to be with your child and still see the service. Children's Worship Notebooks are available for all ages on the shelves in the Narthex (Sanctuary lobby), along with activity sheets pertaining to today's scripture. An usher can assist you.

In Preparation for Worship

Bright Morning Star, be near us as we wait to hear Your word. Send Your Spirit to illumine our hearts and minds, that we may meet Your living word as these scriptures are read and proclaimed. May the truth of Your word transform our lives, so that Your light will be seen through us. Amen.

Prelude

The Advent Rose / Sharon Elery Rogers Festival Ringers
Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella / arr. Tammy Waldrop
Good King Wenceslas / arr. Bill Ingram

Advent Wreath

Buddy and Marsha Brown

Response

Come, Come Emmanuel / COME, COME EMMANUEL



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Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Celebration of Community

Jason Whitener

Bidding Prayer and 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.

* Processional Hymn #49

Once In Royal David's City / Irby Bonnie Ruggiero, Soloist

Sermon

Light Splits the Night Shannon Dill

* Hymn #12

stanzas 1, 4 and 5

People, Look East / BESANÇON

Lesson 1

Light at Creation Parker Cutler
Genesis 1:1-5, 14-19

Response

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Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Lesson 2

Light Is Prophesied
Isaiah 42:1-7

David Stover

Carol

One Star / Sally K. Albrecht & Jay Althouse

Westminster Choir

One star, shining in the darkness, growing ever stronger, shining in the night. One star, shining like a beacon, glowing in the heavens, shining so bright. One star, leading ever onward, burning with a passion. One star, leading to a baby in a tiny stable. Lead us, o star of heaven, lead with a light so clear. Guide us, o star of wonder to the babe so near. One star, calling all the shepherds, leading ever eastward. One star, guiding all the wise men, leading to the stable. One star, shining on the hillside, shining on the valley, shining from above. One star, telling us a story, telling of the glory, bringing us love.

Response

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Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Carol

Keep Your Lamps / arr. Andre Thomas

Chancel Choir

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh. Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done. Christian journey soon be over.

Lesson 3

Light Is Promised
Isaiah 60:1-3, 18-20

Shelby Threlkel

Response

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Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Carol

Jazz Gloria / Natalie Sleeth

Youth Choir

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Alleluia, Christ the Lord is born. Lo, now He comes the awaited Messiah, the babe who is born in a poor cattle stall. There 'mid the wise men and shepherds adoring, He lies sweetly sleeping, the Savior of all. Tell the news through all the earth; tidings of the holy birth. Sent from God with man to dwell: Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Lesson 4

Light Is Witnessed
 Luke 2:25-32

Bill Barbin

Response

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Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Carol

Jesu, As Thou Art Our Savior / Benjamin Britten
 Chancel Choir

Wendy Moreland, soloist

Jesu, save us all through Thy virtue. Jesu, as Thou art our Savior that Thou save us fro dolor! Jesu is mine paramor. Blessed be Thy name. Jesu was born of a may upon Christemas Day, she was may befor and ay.

Lesson 5

Light Among Us
 John 1:1-18

Maddie Dill

Response

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Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Carol

Mary, Where Is Your Baby? / Dan R. Edwards

Youth Choir

Mary, where is your baby? Way down yonder in Bethlehem. Shepherds in the fields watching over their sheep, some of them are dozing and the others asleep, when suddenly they're wakened by a glorious sound: a host of heavenly angels singing praise all around! The shepherds were a trembling and quaking in fear. The angel said, "We've something that we want you to hear! Right over there in Bethlehem is born on this day the long awaited Son of God asleep in the hay!" The shepherds headed down and-a what do you know? They found the baby Jesus wrapped in swaddling clothes. They saw His mother Mary and they saw Joseph too. They left the manger singing and-a shouting Good News.

Lesson 6

Light Is Fulfilled
 Revelation 21:23-22:5

Tricia Bridges

Response

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Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

Carol

Stars Are for Those Who Lift Their Eyes / Pauline Delmonte

Westminster Choir

Will Hudson and Allie Hearn, soloists

Stars are for those who lift their eyes. We stand on a cloudless night and look up at a million stars so distant and so bright. I wonder if that shining night, the night of Jesus' birth, the stars sang with the angels above the sleeping earth. The shepherds heard near Bethlehem the heavenly host proclaim the wonder of His coming and the power of His name! If stormy clouds should hide the stars, no fearful thought is mine. Far beyond all earthly storms the heavenly stars still shine!

Melcena Burns Denny

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering Invitation

Phil Brown

Offertory

O Come, O Come Emmanuel / David Schwoebel

Chancel Choir

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who orders all things, far and nigh; to us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go.

O come, Desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind; bid Thou our sad divisions cease, and be Thyself our King of Peace.

Prayer Of Dedication

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

* **Recessional Hymn #41**

O Come, All Ye Faithful / ADESTE FIDELES / arr. David Willcocks

Please note the order of stanzas:

Stanza 1: All / Choir only stanza / **Stanza 3: All** / **Stanza 2: All**

* **Blessing**

Leader: May God Almighty fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God, the love of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit remain with you always. Go forth in peace and joy!

All: Thanks be to God! Alleluia!

* **Postlude**

Noël / Louis-Claude Daquin

Tuesday, December 17, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Visit our Annual **Live Nativity!**

Bethlehem comes to the front lawn of St. Luke's. Bring your family and friends to see the story, complete with live animals.

For more information on our Advent and Christmas events, please see the flyers available in the lobby, narthex, and on our website, www.slpres.org.

KNOW

Visit St. Luke's Library! The library elves have gathered up all the Christmas books for your convenience. From stories to read to kids to adult books of all kinds, there is something for everyone.

Mark Your Calendars for the 2014 Women's Retreat: We will gather together on Friday afternoon, March 14 and return home on Sunday, March 16, 2014. Details will be coming in January so mark your calendars and plan to join us.

St. Luke's Presbyterian Women (SLPW)

We would like to thank St. Luke's Presbyterian Women and our church family for the gifts to the Santa Claus Express 2013. The recipients at the Presbyterian Home and Village will really have a wonderful Christmas, knowing they were not forgotten during the holidays.

Circle Meetings will resume in January.

Questions? Contact Ellen Womack, Moderator, at epwomack@bellsouth.net or 770-913-0314.

FEAST for ALL! Register now for our Wednesday night fellowship and learning program, which begins Wednesday, January 15. Please leave your completed registration form and payment in the picnic basket in Sheppard Hall or in Liz Catlett's mailbox. Note the family dinner deal! More details are in the brochures which can be found on our website, www.slpres.org, in the lobby, in the narthex, or in the Sheppard Hall lobby. Don't forget you can also sign up for dinner weekly on the blue pew cards, or call Sally Hawkins in the church office by noon on Monday.

Men's Bible Study: Meets every Friday, year round, 6:40-8 a.m. in the Parlor, Room 145, and is led by Dave Elkins. Gather with other men before you start your day to share in Bible study and fellowship. We are studying First John.

KNOW

News from SPLASH! Children's Ministries

Christmas Eve Family Worship participants will rehearse after 11:00 worship **today**. This is our only run-through; it won't take more than an hour.

So that our volunteers and their families may enjoy relaxing time together, our Godly Play, Holy Moly and Connect classes **will not meet on Sunday, Dec. 29**. Join us for new lessons and activities in 2014!

Youth Connection (SLYC)

Youth Sunday School: Sundays, 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Youth rooms

December 15: Youth Christmas Parties (see Christmas events brochure for more info)

Youth Choir: Sundays, 7-8 p.m., Choir Rm.

Questions? Contact Phil Brown: philbrown@slpres.org or 770-393-1424 ext. 238.

Adult Sunday School ~ 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Each of our Sunday School classes are studying *Christmas: Light Splits the Night*: Jesus Christ, the Savior-Messiah and King of kings, came to us as a child born in a cattle stall and grew into a person like no other in history. Each Advent season, with all its fanfare, gives us an opening to remember the strange and wonderful time when light split the night and God became one of us. Join us on Sundays as we explore how God's amazing light illuminates the world.

Faith Foundations, Room 232

FINCH (Families in Christ), Room 203

The New Testament - The Historical Jesus, Room 145, Parlor

Seasons of the Spirit, Room 231-233

Soul Food, Room 235

Questions? Contact Shannon Dill at shannondill@slpres.org or 770-393-1424 ext. 229.

SHARE

From the Choir Loft

Chancel Choir (adults) Wednesdays through **Dec. 18, 7:30-9 p.m.**

Festival Ringers (youth & adults)

Wednesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Resumes in January.

Youth Choir (6th-12th grades)

Sundays, 7-8 p.m., in the Choir Room;

Dec. 15: 9:30-10:30 a.m.

Westminster Choir (2nd-5th grades)

Wednesdays through Dec. 18, 5-5:45 p.m.

Cherub Choir (4 years - 1st grade)

Wednesdays through Dec. 18, 5:15-5:45 p.m.

Contact Clair Maxwell (clairmaxwell@slpres.org or 770-393-1424 ext. 227) about participating and sharing your musical gifts. Join us!

Christmas Caroling has become an annual tradition for our church family. This year it will be on Thursday, **Dec. 19 from 6-8 p.m.** We will meet in the church lobby and carpool to our various locations. All ages are welcome!

We need a few “Bethlehem people” to complete our Live Nativity on Tuesday evening, Dec. 17. Please contact gkent4@aol.com to volunteer. Children can be angels or shepherds, and adults can be wise men, Mary, or Joseph. The community loves this annual gift from St. Luke’s, so please consider this special opportunity!

Next Men’s Breakfast is at 8:00 on Jan. 11, 2014. All St. Luke’s men and their guests are welcome to come and enjoy an excellent breakfast and program. We will have our always popular session on legislative news. Fran Millar, Tom Taylor and Wendell Willard have been invited as our guest speakers. Hope you can attend. Questions? Please contact Daryl Moore: 404-993-6203 ddmoore@yahoo.com

Marriage Enrichment Group Monthly Meetings: Our monthly meetings will resume in January. New couples or couples with questions may contact Kimey and Mark Reed at kimeyreed@gmail.com or 404-441-8614.

Better Marriages Getaway Weekend: Registration is underway for the Better Marriage Getaway Weekend, “Pathways to the Heart”, February 14-16, 2014, at the Sea Palms Resort in St. Simons Island, GA. Registration fee is \$225 per couple before January 13, then \$255. The hotel room is booked separately at \$129 per night. Registration forms can be found at www.BetterMarriagesGA.org or contact Kimey and Mark Reed at kimeyreed@gmail.com or 404-441-8614. This would be a fantastic Valentine’s gift.

The Worship Exploratory Task Force: We are engaged in ongoing discussions on how we can better serve our congregants in worship and we want to hear from you! Please contact a member of the committee or Bruce Jones, chair: stratocaster2@comcast.net or 404-304-5346, with your comments, concerns, and suggestions. Members of the committee are Mary Louise Connor, Parker Cutler, Debi Elkins, Jim Giesler, Jill Hudson, Tom Loftis, Clair Maxwell, Wendy Moreland, Paula Morris, Roby Price, Kimey Reed, Edna Schell, Jim Schell and Jason Whitener.

PALS Enrichment Classes: Perimeter Adult Learning & Services, Inc. begins their classes on Jan. 6 and they run through March 3, 2014, at Dunwoody United Methodist Church. For more information, pick up a pink brochure in the lobby kiosk, contact PALS at 770-698-0801, or visit their website, www.palsonline.org

2014 Flowers: To give flowers in memory or in honor of someone or for a special event, sign up now! Cost is \$80. The calendar is located on the main lobby bulletin board.

Questions? Call Celeste Fischer, 404-434-8099 or Faye Cashwell, 770-409-1960.

Buy Some, Share One: St. Luke's ongoing food drive supports local organizations. You can help fill the pantry by buying an extra non-perishable item every time you go to the grocery store, and placing your donation in the carts in the main lobby. We are now collecting for the Interfaith Outreach Home. The most needed items are canned meats such as chicken and tuna, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, rice, canned vegetables, cereal and toilet paper.

Volunteers Needed to Provide Dinner at IOH: Interfaith Outreach Home (IOH) provides transitional housing for homeless families. St. Luke's provides and delivers a meal on the third Thursday of each month. Reimbursement for IOH meals is budgeted. This typically involves approximately 10 adults and 15 children. If you, your family, or group are willing to provide and serve a meal for IOH, please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the lobby bulletin board or contact Al Bridges at 770-394-6581. We still need someone to sign up for the dinner on May 15, 2014. If you would like to help with a dinner for another night, please contact the person already signed up.

Looking to serve your church? There is a need for those willing to serve in a friendly and welcoming way as ushers. Duties include greeting everyone, passing out bulletins, taking up the offering, directing congregants during communion, and tidying up after worship. Questions? Contact John Tienken, 770-394-1104, tienkenj@gmail.com.

Share a Dinner at Journey Night Shelter: St. Luke's provides dinner on the fourth Sunday of the month for 26 homeless men at Journey (formerly Druid Hills). Volunteers are needed for each month, from now through August 2014. The following dates in 2014 are still available: April 27, May 25, June 27, July 27. If you, your family, or group are willing to provide a meal one month, please sign up on the sheet on the lobby bulletin board or you may call Al Bridges at 770-394-6581.

Looking for a great way to meet other St. Luke's members while serving our congregation? St. Luke's meal ministry provides meals for families or individuals who are recovering from a recent surgery or illness, suffering from the loss of a loved one, or celebrating the birth or adoption of a new baby. If you are interested in delivering a meal to a congregation member or would like more information, please contact Krissy Williams at bkcook71@yahoo.com.

Helping Hands: This ministry matches short term or emergent needs in the congregation with available resources. Could you use your time and talent to assist someone in the congregation? Examples are setting up or assisting with a computer, driving a member to an appointment, helping change light bulbs. If this interests you, contact Billy Martin, billybeer214@yahoo.com or 770-441-0373. If you need the Helping Hands team, contact your Deacon.

SERVE

Get together with some friends for a continental breakfast here at St. Luke's every Sunday morning and welcome folks as they arrive. If you and your friends could furnish one of these breakfasts, we will be glad to reimburse you. Please sign up on <http://bit.ly/slpcbrkfst> or contact Jay Burton, jburton@mflaw.com. We also need volunteers to greet folks as they come in through the lobby and narthex. All you need is a smile and to be able to open a door! Families are encouraged to help. Sign up to be a greeter at <http://bit.ly/slpcgreet2> or contact Jay Burton, jburton@mflaw.com.

Prayer Ministry: Our St. Luke's Prayer Ministry Team is involved in intercessory prayer. Intercessory prayer is the act of praying on behalf of others. The Bible is clear that Christians are called to be intercessors. If you would like to become a part of the Prayer Ministry Team, contact Paula Barbin, barbin@fulton.K12.ga.us or 678-297-9877.

R.O.C.K. (Reaching Out Through Crocheting & Knitting): Wednesdays, 10 a.m. - noon. Men and women, young and not quite so young, of any skill level, are welcome! We make prayer shawls, layette sets for preemies, squares for blankets, and other items for outreach projects.

Update from the Finance Committee

December is always St. Luke's largest month for receiving income and 2013 will undoubtedly follow the same pattern. St. Luke's needs to collect about \$210,000 during December in order to end the fiscal year with balanced financial results. To meet the 2013 budget, it will take prayerful consideration and action on all of our parts:

- For those members who have not yet fulfilled their pledge, we ask for your assistance in paying your pledge as soon as possible.
- For those among us who may not have been able to pledge for 2013, we ask for your prayerful consideration in determining if there is an opportunity to contribute a portion of your blessings to the church.
- For those who have already fulfilled their pledge for 2013, thank you! As you consider opportunities to give to other worthwhile causes at the end of the tax year, we ask that you prayerfully consider including St. Luke's in your year-end giving plans.

St. Luke's Presbyterian Church has always been faithful servants for Jesus Christ in this world and we know we can count on each and every member to help continue our ministries. As always, if you need assistance in determining the best alternative to share your gifts and tithes including stock sales, bank drafts, credit card payments, please contact our Treasurer, Gary Phipps at 770-671-1468 or e-mail the Finance Committee at finance@slpres.org.

LAST SUNDAY:

Tithes & Offerings	\$19,407
8:30 attendance	81
11:00 attendance	302
Nursery	42

Financial reports available online.

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Dr. Jason Whitener
Associate Pastor	Rev. Shannon Dill
Associate Pastor	Rev. Phil Brown
Pastor Emeritus	Dr. E. Moss Robertson
Dir. of Music & Organist	Clair Maxwell
Dir. of Children’s Ministries	Catherine Anne Thomas
Dir. of St. Luke’s Little Saints Preschool & Kindergarten	Carol Perry
Dir. of Communications	Tina Knoedler
Administrative Assistants	Liz Catlett & Bonnie Farrar
Receptionist	Sally Hawkins
Facilities Manager	Roby Price
Treasurer	Gary Phipps

PASTORAL COUNSELING

St. Luke’s Perimeter Counseling Center

Georgia C. Griffin, J.D., M. Div., Director

Perimeter Center, Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist/Mediator

404-636-1457, ext. 452 www.cccgeorgia.org



ST. LUKE’S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

1978 Mount Vernon Road
Dunwoody, Georgia 30338

ELDERS

Class of 2014:

Tricia Bridges, Jim Bryant,
Faye Cashwell (Clerk of Session),
Parker Cutler (Youth Elder),
Annie Hardy, Sally Joyce,
David King, Dick Miller, John Ray

Class of 2015:

Jennie Burroughs, Jared Elliot,
Tricia Igleheart, Fern Mitropoulos,
Mark Reed, Chris Wiseman,
Chris Wallace, Les Woodside

Class of 2016:

Rich Crutchfield, Mary Guerrant,
Tom Loftis, David McKenney,
Wayne Radloff, Mark Ryan,
David Tharp, Allison Thornton

DEACONS

Class of 2014:

Diane Beidl, Jay Burton,
Jim Giesler (Moderator),
Joyce Johnson, Jean Kammerer,
Paula Morris, Luis Sepulveda,
Carol Sweigert, Kris Turnbull

Class of 2015:

Maria Barnhart, Matt Biggerstaff,
Sarah Caverhill, Peter Keohane,
Julie Knotts, Billy Martin,
Gena Spears, Taylor Vivian,
Krissy Williams

Class of 2016:

Sandra Clay, Amanda Dunnick,
Shawn Hamlin, Niki Rabren,
Katherine Robeson,
Rebecca Strickland, Jenny Troha,
Michelle Vail, Meg Wallace