

ST. LUKE'S

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)



Artwork by Clara Young, Age 7

11 a.m. December 22, 2013
Fourth 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 22, 2013
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The flowers are given to the Glory of god and in loving memory of Duncan Cutler by his wife, Sharon, his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

SERVING TODAY

Acolytes Susan Carter, Supervisor
Crucifer Reagan McGurk
Candle Lighter Laura Turnbull
Banner Bearer Grace Strickland
Bell Ringer Trey McGurk
Bible Bearer Celia Carter

Chancel Guild Brid & Tricia Igleheart

Ushers John, Jay & Tyler Tienken;
Jack & Sarah Marie McKenney; Mary Martin

Continental Breakfast Joseph Burton

Faithful Friends Andrea Stewart

Greeters Jim Bryant, Rebecca Strickland

Open/Close Steve Klein

Sound Crew Jim Bryant



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

Your face has shone upon us, O God, in the young woman who is with child. She will bear a Son and name him Emmanuel, "God with us." Your presence shall hereafter be a source of comfort and guidance to all that call on Your name. Your footsteps shall accompany us, Your breath shall give us new life, Your arms will console us, and Your hands will be there to welcome us home. You are a God for all seasons and give us all reason to worship Your name. Amen

Gathering Prayer of Adoration

Jason Whitener

Prelude

Christmas Carols

Advent Wreath

The Valdes Family

Processional Hymn #23

Angels We Have Heard on High

* Celebration of Community

Phil Brown

* Invitation to Confession

O-So-So / Geonyong Lee

©1988 Geonyong Lee

* Call to Prayer

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

* Prayer of Confession

You shower gifts on Your people, O God, and forgive their faults. We keep accounts and settle old scores. You make peace, sending Christ as a sign of reconciliation and hope. We make war and call it peacekeeping. You give us a source of confidence as Your Spirit is sent into our midst. We cause others to be restless, in our anxiety and self-concern. Have mercy upon us, forgive, and free us, that we may be renewed to serve Your people with goodwill.

* Assurance of Forgiveness

* Gloria

Jacques Berthier

Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Tell Us Our Story

Catherine Anne Thomas

Children are always welcome to stay in worship. However, parents may take your child(ren) to the nursery. Parents of children in pre-k, kindergarten, and first grade may take them to the Faithful Friends Class in Room 121.

Morning Prayer & 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.

Old Testament Reading

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

Hannah Esther

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Anthem

Walk in the Light / arr. André Thomas

(Parents may return to their seats during the Anthem.)

New Testament Reading

Luke 2:1-14

Jason Whitener

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Don't Be Afraid: Good News and Peace!

Jason Whitener

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

*** Apostle's Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering & Offertory

*** Doxology**

NUN KOMM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND



Bright-ly does Your man - ger shine, glo - rious is its light di - vine.
Let not sin o'er - cloud this_ light; ev - er be our faith_ thus bright.

*** Prayer of Dedication**

WE GO IN GOD'S NAME

*** Sending Hymn #31**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

*** Benediction**

*** Benediction Response**

Go Now in Peace / Natalie Sleeth

Chancel Choir

Go now in peace. May the God of love surround you everywhere you may go.

*** Postlude**

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 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
(No FINCH meeting Dec. 29th)

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.

News from SPLASH! Children's Ministries

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)

Today Youth Babysitting Fundraiser 1:30-4:30pm. Youth come help with child care and raise money for the Tartan Trot. Bring a friend to help.

Confirmation has been sent out to our 8th graders. If you would like information about Confirmation please contact Phil Brown (see below).

Sunday night youth group resumes Jan 12.

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

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

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

Tuesday, December 24 **Christmas Eve Services:**

5:00 P.M.

The Christmas story is told through narrative, song, and participation of our church members; all children who wish to do so may participate
in the Sanctuary

7:30 P.M.

Candlelight & Communion
in the Sanctuary with string quartet, organ, and choir

Childcare is not provided
for this service.

11:00 P.M.

Candlelight & Communion
in the Chapel

Childcare is not provided
for this service.

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)

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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.

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.

FEAST for ALL!

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Register now for our Wednesday night fellowship and learning program, which begins **Wed., Jan. 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.

ST. LUKE'S HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS:

Dec. 23: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Dec. 24 - 26: Office Closed

Dec. 27: 9:00 a.m. - Noon

Jan. 1: Office Closed

SHARE

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 next monthly meeting is **Jan. 26**, 5-6:30 p.m. in the FINCH room (203). Childcare is available 4:45-6:30 p.m. 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," **Feb. 14-16**, 2014, at the Sea Palms Resort in St. Simons Island, GA. Registration fee is \$225 per couple before Jan. 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.

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

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.

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.

From the Choir Loft

Thank you choirs for a wonderful season of great music in worship! Make your New Year's resolution now to join us in 2014. Contact Clair Maxwell (clairmaxwell@slpres.org or 770-393-1424 ext. 227) about participating and sharing your musical gifts.

Chancel Choir
adults

resumes Jan. 8
Wednesdays, 7:30-9 p.m.

Festival Ringers
youth & adults

resumes Jan. 8
Wednesdays, 6:15-7:15 p.m.

Youth Choir
6th-12th grades

resumes Jan. 12
Sundays, 7-8 p.m.

Westminster Choir
2nd-5th grades

resumes Jan. 15
Wednesdays, 5-5:45 p.m.

Cherub Choir
4 years -1st grade

resumes Jan. 15
Wednesdays, 5:15-5:45 p.m.

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 call Gary Phipps (770-671-1468), Don Dill (404-964-3740) or e-mail the Finance Committee at finance@slpres.org.

SERVE

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.



Artwork by Reagan McGurk, Age 11

LAST SUNDAY

Tithes & Offerings	\$28,894
8:30 attendance	85
11:00 attendance	384
Nursery	36

Financial reports available online.

Each Sunday, many of our pews will have first-time or repeat visitors. Your warm welcome to our guests expresses the inviting and hospitable character of this congregation. Your smile and welcoming word make a difference.

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