

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor Rev. Dr. David Lower
 Associate Pastor Rev. Shannon Dill
 Associate Pastor Rev. Phil Brown
 Director of Music & Organist Clair Maxwell
 Director of Children's Ministries Catherine Anne Thomas
 Director of Saint Luke's Little Saints Preschool Carol Perry
 Treasurer Mark Rogers
 Program Coordinator for CE & Music Ministry Melissa King
 Intern for Children & Youth Ministry Erin Rugh
 Church Administrator Lindsay Moss
 Interim Facility Manager Roby Price
 Receptionist Matthew Dobson
 A/V Director Roby Price

SAINT 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

SERVING TODAY

Chancel Guild: Dorothy & Mike Kitchens
Lay Reader: Jennie Burroughs
Open/Close: Bill Womack
Sound: Bob Burroughs
Ushers: Jared Elliot, Captain; Linda Elliot, Carol Hickey, Mike Kitchens,, Dorothy Kitchens
Communion Servers: Ken Painter, Captain; Julie Knotts, Diane LeMaster, Lucy Painter, JJ Singley, Miles Young

LEADERSHIP

ELDERS

Class of 2019:

Al Bridges, Beth Eisenmesser, Sonny Jester, Bob Pile, Bob Polensek, Terri Potter, Whitney Samuelson, Steven Vivian, Sydney Sloan (*Youth Elder*)

Class of 2020:

Carol Ciepluch, Leslie Hamlin, Kay Loerch (*Clerk of Session*), Florence Luranc, JJ Singley, Kelly Sloan, Steve Thornton, Brad Troha

Class of 2021:

Bob Burroughs, Steve Cashwell (*Asst. Clerk of Session*) Tracy Coffie, Val DeFriece, Matt Fogarty, Nael McCarty, Todd Parker, Kristen Wescott

DEACONS

Class of 2019:

Melissa Blakely, Alyson Cohen, Mark Douglass, A.J.Favero, Carol Hickey, Dorothy Kitchens (*Moderator*), Debbie Parkes, Carol Waller, Al Wang, Rosie Coffie (*Youth Deacon,*)

Class of 2020:

Thomas Brown, Karleen Buchholz, Jenny Cumiskey, Ron Davis, Kris Hull (*Vice Moderator*), Daryl Moore, Emily Ritzler, Vivian Smith, Suzanne Thatcher

Class of 2021:

Marylyn Brown, Kelda Hearn, Janis Jones, Alan Keel, Christy Keohane, Betsy King, Molly Naugher, Gena Spears, Steve Wassell



December 2, 2018 10:30am

December 2, 2018
1st Sunday of Advent

Liturgical Color: Purple

Liturgical colors can orient us to the season of the church year and help to engage the sense of sight in worship. Purple marks the seasons of penitence and preparation., Advent and Lent.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:15am Chapel Communion Service
9:15am Sunday School
10:30am Sanctuary Worship Service

Nursery available at all services and Sunday School.

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.

VISION

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

WELCOME, GUESTS!

We are delighted you are worshipping with us.

DURING the Welcome, please print the requested information on the Friendship Pad and pass the Friendship Pad down the pew.

AFTER the worship service, please join us outside the Sanctuary where our Pastors or a church officer will be available to answer questions and provide you with a loaf of freshly-baked bread.

FOR MORE information about our programs, ministries or membership, please contact one of our Pastors at 770.393.1424, or visit our website: slpres.org.

THAT ALL MAY WORSHIP

ASSISTIVE A hearing loop is accessible by switching hearing aids to T-coil. Also, large print hymnals and back cushions are available. Please contact an usher for further assistance.



CHILDREN are a precious part of our church family, and we welcome them in worship. Worship activity sheets and tactile activities are available on the blue Worship Carts in the back of the sanctuary. Each week, children are invited to walk up for an age-appropriate message during "Tell Us Our Story." After that time, they may remain in worship, go to Faithful Friends (K-2nd) or go to child care (PreK and younger).

YOUTH MINISTRY

Phil Brown philbrown@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 238

HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP IN YOUTH MINISTRY:

DECEMBER 2

Sunday School: We will meet in the Great Hall at **9:15am**

Youth Christmas Parties Extravaganzas!

Middle School: 4:45-7:00pm, we will meet at the church then party our way around ATL. Wear your Christmas sweaters and be prepared for a road trip of Christmas proportions. \$16 covers bus and supplies. Bring money. Register online

High School: 6:45-9:00pm, we will meet at church then spend the night dining at the finest fast food establishments north of the Chattahoochee. Dress in your fanciest. \$16 covers the bus and supplies. Food will be on your own so you can order as you want. Register online.

DECEMBER 9

Sunday School: We will meet upstairs in the youth room at **9:15am**

Youth Group Tailgate: We will gather upstairs in the youth room from **12:30pm-Halftime** to watch the Falcons v. Packers game. Bring **\$10**, we will have snacks and order pizza.

FAMILIES WITH COLLEGE STUDENTS

Each year, Montreat hosts a College Conference, which features engaging keynote speakers, thought provoking workshops, meaningful worship services, and much needed sabbath in the mountains of North Carolina. We are excited to be taking a group to this year's conference, which will be **January 2-5, 2019!** If your college student would like to go, have them register at <https://tinyurl.com/SLCCM19>. Don't hesitate to reach out to Erin Rugh (erinrugh@slpres.org) with questions.

DECEMBER/JANUARY BULLETIN/HIGHLIGHTS DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 3 FOR:

Highlights - Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27, & Jan. 3

Bulletin - Dec. 9, 16, 23, 30, & Jan. 6

MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT RETREAT— Whether you are newly married wanting to know more about what's ahead, parents in the midst of busyness looking to reconnect, or just want to have a weekend away with your spouse join us at Calloway Gardens for the **Better Marriages retreat, February 8-10, 2019**. Register now! For any questions email or call Bob and Christine Crutchfield at 770-364-8079 and Gafrog01@hotmail.com.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Clair Maxwell clairmaxwell@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 227

INSTRUMENTALISTS

Sunday, December 16 - Our church orchestra members will participate in worship for our annual Lessons and Carols. Rehearsal is at 9:15 am that morning in preparation for the service at 10:30 am.

Christmas Eve - We are looking for musicians to participate in the 9 pm service on Christmas Eve. Contact Clair for more details.

WESTMINSTER AND CHERUB CHOIRS

Sunday, December 16 - Our children's choirs will be singing for the Lessons and Carols service at 10:30 am. Warm up begins at 10 am that morning.

Christmas Eve - We would like as many of our children to participate in singing for our 5 pm service as possible. Contact Clair for more details.

NO rehearsals for any of our choirs on December 26 and January 2.

ADULT MINISTRY

Shannon Dill shannondill@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 229

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

Individual classes have begun. Please see the website for a full description of each class. (<http://slpres.org/program-ministries/adult-ministry/sunday-school>)

Faith Foundations: Room 232

House to House: Room 203

Seasons of the Spirit: Room 231/233

Soul Food: Room 234/236

FRIDAY MORNING MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Fellowship and Bible study every Friday from 6:40-8am in the Parlor with Dan Joyce.

BIBLE STUDY: "WAYFARERS"

Come join David, Shannon or Phil as this week's preacher leads a study of the scripture for the upcoming Sunday's worship. Meet on Wednesdays at 10am in the church library.

In Preparation for Worship

Therefore, we can be patient when things go against us,
thankful when things go well,
and for the future we can have good confidence in our faithful God and Father
that nothing will separate us from his love.

from the Heidelberg Catechism



Gathering Prayer

Prelude

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

If you are new to Saint Luke's today, welcome, we are so glad you are here! We have a gift of fresh bread we would love to give to you as a token of our gratitude. Please introduce yourself after worship to receive your welcome gift.

Please take the time now to fill out the Friendship Pads situated at the end of each pew. Write down your names and pass the pad down the pew, so that you may greet your pew neighbors by name and that we may know you are here.

Call to Worship*

Leader: Christ draws near.

People: **A new day is dawning.**

Leader: The day of the Lord's reign draws near.

People: **A new day is dawning.**

Opening Hymn #314*

Longing for Light, We Wait in Darkness

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Miller Family

Advent Prayer*

Gracious God, renew in us this day the promises that light overcomes darkness, hope defeats despair, and joy conquers fear, so that we may live out those promises today and every day. Amen.

Song of Praise* (refrain from hymn #314)

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness.

Christ be our light!

Shine in your church gathered today.

Passing the Peace of Christ*

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer for Illumination

Jennie Burroughs

Scripture Reading

Habakkuk 1:2-4; 2:1-4; 3:17-19
on pgs. 821-822, 823 of the Old Testament

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Tell Us Our Story

David Lower

After Tell Us Our Story, parents may walk children 3 and younger to their classrooms in Sheppard Hall. Pre-K, K and 1st graders may gather in the narthex, make a nametag, and follow your teacher up to The Harbor for a series of "Whirl" videos.

Sermon

"The Hopes and Fears of All the Years"

Shannon Dill

Confirmation Recognition

The Offering Invitation

Giving is a tangible sign of worship. If you give electronically, there is a blue, laminated, electronic giving card in the pew rack to place in the offering plate as it is passed.

Offertory

Hope of the World Taylor Davis

Chancel Choir

Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion:
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent;
save us, your people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life:
still let your Spirit unto us be given to heal earth's wounds and end her bitter strife.
Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light:
walk now beside us, lest the tempting byways lure us away from you to endless night.
Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
who by this sign did conquer grief and pain:
we would be faithful to your gospel glorious; you are our Lord, and you forever reign!
(Georgia Harkness)

SPLASH! CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Catherine Anne Thomas cathomas@slpres.org / 770.393.1424 ext. 228

SACRAMENT SUNDAY IS TODAY, DECEMBER 2 AFTER TELL US OUR STORY AT 10:30am

We can still learn about Communion during Advent! All children ages PreK and up are invited to join us for a time of engaged learning and activities.

DECEMBER 20 – LIVE NATIVITY 6:00-7:30PM

Invite your friends to this community favorite! We'll interact with the friendly beasts from the Little Red Barn; see Mary, Joseph, shepherds, kings, angels, and a tiny baby; drink hot chocolate; make s'mores; hear beautiful music and the nativity gospel; and remember the joy and love that one birth brought to our world.

If you or someone in your family would like to portray a Bethlehem role during the live nativity, please contact Mary Kent, gkent4@aol.com. Time commitment for characters is 5:30-7:15pm.

CHRISTMAS EVE CREATIONS

A great way for kids to help share the nativity story is through artwork. We invite any child to submit a color (crayon or marker) illustration of the Bethlehem scene. Use white paper, vertical orientation is usually best for reproduction. All entries will be displayed and published; we will pick one for our 5:00pm Christmas Eve bulletin cover! Leave all drawings in the office mailbox of Catherine Anne Thomas.



ADVENT SEASON IS HERE!

Some highlights include:

POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS —You can help decorate the church *and* honor or remember a loved one by purchasing a poinsettia. Donation envelopes are in the pew boxes. \$15 per plant (please write poinsettias on the memo line). Names will be published in the bulletin on December 16. On January 6, plants may be taken home to enjoy! Questions? Contact Nancy Self, 404.237.6551 or nself@comcast.net.

THORNWELL CHRISTMAS OFFERING — Join our tradition of donating to Thornwell in lieu of sending Christmas cards to your Saint Luke's family. Names will be published in the December 16 bulletin. Please make checks payable to SL PW . You may place your contribution in the envelope on the Thornwell poster in the lobby or in the specially marked envelope in the pew rack & then place in offering plate. Deadline: Sunday, December 9.

OWLS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON — Saint Luke's OWLS (Older, Wiser, Loving Seniors) will host their Christmas Luncheon on Tuesday, December 11 at 11:30 am at the home of David and Amanda Lower (4696 Devonshire Rd., Dunwoody, GA 30338). Please bring a dessert to share. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board in the lobby. Join us for lunch and friendship!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN (PW) CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE —The PW will have two types of mini loaves available for purchase, Triple Chocolate & Cranberry-Orange on Sunday, December 9. These delicious, homemade breads make wonderful hostess gifts. \$4 each. Please, cash or check. These delicious baked goods are wonderful to have on hand during the Christmas holidays!

LESSONS AND CAROLS—**Sunday, December 16 at 10:30 am.** Our annual tradition of worshiping through readings and seasonal music led by members of the congregation and all our choirs. Invite friends and neighbors to this celebratory service as we prepare for the coming of Christ, hear anew the familiar story, and sing together as one voice.

SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH-WIDE CHRISTMAS PARTY — Come join your Saint Luke's family for the annual Christmas Party at the Joyce's home (7430 StoneyKirk Close), **5:30-9pm on Saturday, December 15, 2018.** Bring a dessert or appetizer to share and enjoy food, fellowship, and Christmas fun! Sign up on the poster in the lobby to RSVP. The Joyces are even providing child-care in their fun basement! Call Fern Mitropoulos at 770-3438996 or tmitropoulos@comcast.net with any questions.

LIVE NATIVITY—Invite your friends to this community favorite on **December 20, from 6:00-7:30pm.** We'll interact with the friendly beasts from the Little Red Barn; see Mary, Joseph, shepherds, kings, angels, and a tiny baby; drink hot chocolate; make s'mores; hear beautiful music and the nativity gospel; and remember the joy and love that one birth brought to our world.

Song of Thanksgiving

Christmas Doxology

Glo-ry be to God the Fa ther, glo-ry be to Christ the Son, glo-ry to the Ho-ly
Spir - it, glo-ry to the Three in One. Here we of - fer to you glad - ly all the
gifts that you im-part as we glo-ry in your pre-sence giv-ing from a grateful heart.

Holy Communion

Communion will be served by intinction (dipping the bread into the cup). Everyone is invited to participate in the sacrament. The cup holds grape juice, not wine, during this service. A server with gluten-free wafers will be standing directly in front of the communion table for those who prefer this option. If you would prefer to be served where you are sitting, please raise your hand.

Prayer of Thanksgiving 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.

Words of Institution

Communion Music

Closing Hymn #121*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Benediction*

Benediction Response*

While We Are Waiting, Come

Chancel Choir

While we are waiting, come. Jesus, our Lord, Emmanuel.

Postlude*

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Worship Note: Today's organ selections are French Noël's in the classic style composed on advent tunes by French organist Alexis Chauvet.

SUNDAY SPOTLIGHT:



CONFIRMATION RECOGNITION—The confirmation class is generally made of 8th graders of Saint Luke's. During the fall semester they worked through a series of topics around being faithful Christians in the Presbyterian Church (USA). They asked insightful questions, went on a retreat, and wrote statements of faith. Please join us in celebration of the good reflective work they did this semester. Today we also welcome those from the class who feel called to be Active Members at Saint Luke's. They have met with session. We welcome them with open arms.

The members of this year's confirmation class are: Will Cameron, Landon Clark, Madeleine Douglass, Elise Hearn, Katie Hull, Elizabeth Lee, Rebecca Miller, Emma Parker, Charlie Rickell, Julia Strickland, Jack Troha, Jake Valdes, Anna Wills, and Hayden Wood.



TODAY! CHERRY LOG CHRISTMAS at 4PM — It is the second greatest story ever told...that's what some folks say about Dickens' A Christmas Carol. Clark Taylor, who performs all parts of this theatrical event, adapts the Christmas tale of love and redemption with a distinctively Appalachian flair to create A Cherry Log Christmas Carol. Over the years, Taylor has created iterations of this piece for organizations near and wide; he cites Fred Craddock as a tremendous influence in this new interpretation of the story. The event's Offering will go to support the Community Assistance Center.



TOMORROW! CHRISTMAS DINNER FOR ALL WOMEN (FAMILY & FRIENDS) — It's not too late to sign up for the annual Christmas Dinner and Service on **Monday, December 3rd** hosted by Presbyterian Women. Mingle in the lobby from 6-6:30, followed by a delicious dinner prepared by Chef Quentin, and concluding with a meaningful and beautiful candlelight communion service in the sanctuary. **Sign up on the poster in the lobby and invite local family and friends to join you.** You can note if you have a request to be seated with a friend in particular. \$15 per person. Checks can be made out to SL PW. Questions? Contact Stephanie McGoldrick at tsmcgoldrick@gmail.com or Jenny Troha at jbtroha@bellsouth.net.



A SERVICE OF COMFORT AND REST — **Sunday, December 9 at 5pm** in the Saint Luke's chapel. This special service offers hope and comfort to those who are finding it difficult to celebrate this season due to the loss of loved ones or broken relationships, or for any other reason. Please join us and invite someone you know who needs to feel the warmth and comfort of hope.



DECEMBER 8: MEN'S BREAKFAST AT 8 AM—What does a presbytery do? How do they use the money we send to them? Why do presbyteries matter, anyway? If you've ever asked any of these questions, or if you're just curious about the answers, come to the Men's Breakfast on December 8th at 8 am. Aisha Brooks-Lytle, the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Greater Atlanta, and Chip Blankinship, the presbytery's Director of Operations, will be with us to explore these questions, along with the questions you bring. This is sure to be a very informative meeting and one that should enhance our understanding of the overall Presbytery. **Please RSVP by December 4** to BobSchultz9@icloud.com. We **need** to know the number of people attending so we can prepare enough food for breakfast.



END-OF-YEAR GIVING—Saint Luke's, like most churches, relies on a strong December month of giving in order to meet our budget and this year is no different. We ask all members to pause this December and remember all the blessings God bestows on us through our church family. If you have not already completed your 2018 pledge, we encourage you to please go ahead and fulfill that commitment now. If you are able to give over your pledged amount and would like to donate any appreciated stock in kind before the end of the year then you receive the added benefit of a healthy tax deduction and no capital gains. If you are interested in donating stock, please contact Mark Rogers for instructions at 678-935-8980 or email him at jmarkrogers49@gmail.com.



ADVENT DEVOTIONAL - HOPES AND FEARS: BE NOT AFRAID— We hope you'll follow along daily, be deepened in your faith, and prepare your heart to celebrate the birth of Christ. This year's devotional is provided by Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. There are a wide variety of way to access the devotional!

- Read online. Go to our website www.slpres.org and follow the link for Advent Devotional
 - Receive daily e-mails. Go to www.pts.edu/email, click "Signup for Seminary News," and "Devotionals (Advent and Lent)."
 - Follow along on the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary Facebook and Twitter pages.
 - Download the free app:
 - Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=edu.pts.devotions>
 - Apple: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/devotions-advent-lent/id945697533?ls=1&mt=8>
- Contact Shannon Dill if you have any questions!