

New Covenant News

A publication of

CHURCH of the NEW COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A.

Volume 8, Issue 11

www.cncdoraville.org

December 2009

Get Ready for Christmas with Us!



Many of us are already scrambling to get our homes ready for guests, buy presents for loved ones, plan meals, plan trips to see relatives – rushing to do everything we need to do as we hasten to get ready for Christmas.

All of the hurrying, all the commercial hubbub, the jingling music playing in the stores – these things rattle our nerves and fray the edges of the soul.

We all know that Christmas is more than a tree with presents under it, more than the best holiday meal, more than that one “Silent Night” per year. Even so, it is difficult to make the space we need in our hearts for the One in whose name we are trying to do all these things.

We have just what you need, right here at Church of the New Covenant!

Beginning November 29th and continuing through December, we will have special **Advent Services each Sunday at 11:00 am**. These are weekly opportunities to deepen our appreciation of

- What the word “Christ” really means
- What people were longing for before he came
- What gifts Christ may have to give *you*

We will have a **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 pm** (on December 24th!), which will include scripture readings and Christmas carols that evoke, as if for the first time, the wonder of that old story.

We will also have an opportunity to serve God by serving others by helping out with **Christmas Crafts for Kids**, and a gift-making and gift-collecting event coordinated by our young adult group The Blend, **Saturday, December 12th, 3:00 – 5:00 pm**.

Of course, there is much you can do on your own to get your heart ready by setting aside just a few minutes a day to read a scripture selection and ponder its meaning. Inside this newsletter we have listed several resources, and I am sure one will be just right for you.

So have a blessed Getting-Ready season and make Christmas even more enjoyable for you and the people you love,

In Christ,

Rick



**Church of the
New Covenant
Presbyterian Church
(USA)**

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Rev. Rick Neale
pastorcnc@bellsouth.net

Community and Witness Ministry Coordinator

George Tatro
inakitatro@bellsouth.net

Interim Organist and Choir Director

Bob Tucker

Office Administrator

Gail Brown
newcovenantpcusa@bellsouth.net

Office Hours: Tues-Thurs, 9:30 am-2:30 pm

Session Members

Class of 2010

Ashley Pieper (Clerk of Session)
Marcia Jacobsen (Witness)
Gretchen Turner (Worship)
Tedd Meinersmann (Youth Elder)

Class of 2011

Scott Pieper (Building & Grounds, P.R. Team)
Mina Grier (Evangelism)
Jeff Davis (Fellowship)

Class of 2012

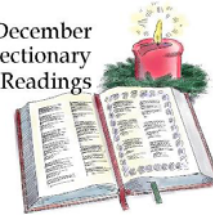
Mimi Carroll (Witness, Finance)
Emily Russ (Fellowship)
Danielle Washburn (Spiritual Growth)

Newsletter Submissions

New Covenant News is a monthly publication printed by Church of the New Covenant, PC U.S.A., Doraville, Georgia. If you have news you would like to share of upcoming events, please email or call the church office: newcovenantpcusa@bellsouth.net 770-455-8117. The deadline for monthly submissions is the **third Wednesday of the month.**

Lectionary for December

December
Lectionary
Readings



Dec. 6	Malachi 3:1-4; Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6
Dec. 13	Zephaniah 3:14-20; Isaiah 12:2-6; Philippians 4:4-7; Luke 3:7-18
Dec. 20	Micah 5:2-5a; Luke 1:47-55; Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45 (46-55)
Dec. 24	Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 96; Titus 2:11-14; Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)
Dec. 25	Dawn: Isaiah 62:6-12; Psalm 97; Titus 3:4-7; Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20 Day: Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 98; Hebrews 1:1-4(5-12); John 1:1-14
Dec. 27	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26; Psalm 148; Colossians 3:12-17; Luke 2:41-52



**A Weekday Prayer Service is held
every Wednesday at noon in the parlor.**



CHURCH OF THE NEW COVENANT
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S.A.

Mission Statement

Adopted by the Session of Church of the New Covenant, February 28, 2009

The Church of the New Covenant exists to continue the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ: serving God by serving others, wherever and whoever you are. We do this by inviting people to join us in pursuing a deeper relationship with God, involving ourselves in the community, and investing our time, talent and treasure in this ministry.

Session Highlights

Our November session meeting started off with us breathing. Mina Grier provided a lovely devotion in which we practiced the spiritual discipline of a breath prayer. It was a great way to begin our meeting together. We breathed in and out together saying a mantra. It grounded us as we began our time together.

Jeff Davis gave a report about the appraisal that was done for the church property. Montessori is interested in purchasing a part of our property (the section by the parking lot where they have put up a number of buildings). The property is worth around \$300,000. The money wouldn't only be used to offset the deficit budget which we are currently running. It would be used to invest in the church – more staff, more programs, building issues, etc. The money would give us a number of years to continue to grow and change without the worry of running out of money. The Financial Committee of the Presbytery will need to come in and they can help us as we navigate these waters. Throughout this discussion we talked about new ways of being better stewards - through promoting giving to the church in one's will and sponsoring financial seminars.

Gaelyn Walker presented a proposal to the session for a Christmas Craft Event for children on December 12, from 3-5. We would invite children to the church so that they can make crafts for their family members to give as Christmas presents. This event would be coordinated by the Blend, but would require help from everyone. Details are to be worked out later, but if you would like to help out in any way (leading a craft, telling a story, providing food) please contact Gaelyn Walker, Scott Pieper, Ashley Pieper or Mandy Davis.

Tom Tewell joined us during our meeting to talk about our vision as a church. He challenged us to speed up the process and have a vision sooner than May. He provided us with some great ideas and we used his brainstorming as a jumping off point for our brainstorming. Here are the various things we came up with about how to get to the point of having our congregation characterized by having a Heads Up Community Ministry, a Vibrant Young Adult Ministry, Enriching Worship, and a Growing Congregation :

Heads up Community Ministry – We will be known in Doraville area as a church where people go when they want to have fun and where they can make a difference in the community.

Other ideas:

- Activities for children – Dual-Purpose, Brings community in and gives back to community
- Parents Day/Evening out – Weekday mornings, evening
- Partnerships with schools
- Adopt a grandparent
- Activities for teens in the afternoons

Vibrant Young Adult Ministry

- The Blend – Fellowship, spiritual growth, service, needs coordinator
- Alternative Service
- Plug in to nearby organizations – eg Kiwanis
- Regular Activity/Sport – Dodge Ball Tournament, outdoor stuff, concerts, picnics
- Music
- Arts – classes, workshops, shows



Enriching Worship

- Traditional service with verve
- Alternative Service – multicultural, weekly communion, informal, silence/contemplation
- Music ideas – vary the format
- Vary the worship space
- Move the symbolic elements around – eg. Baptismal font by the door

Growing Congregation:

- Evangelism – get people started on their spiritual journey
- Everybody in congregation pick one area of community outreach and get involved
- Supper Club – dine at various places in the neighborhood
- Growth Goals – 1 year 100 active members, 5 years 250 active members
- Communicate importance of being here
 - Take advantage of our location – events, etc., commit to once a month event on the lawn
- Improve visibility

Rick Neale, George Tatro, Gretchen Turner, Ashley Pieper, Gaelyn Walker, and Tom Tewell will work on these vision ideas and others and provide feedback at the next session meeting. Please talk to one of us if you have any other ideas or thoughts as we continue to work on our vision as a congregation. As I have said many times before, we cannot do any of this visioning without your thoughts!

Ashley Pieper, Clerk of Session

News and Notes



No Senior Luncheon in December.
 Look out for exciting plans as we begin the New Year!

"...they will call him Immanuel"
 --which means,
 "God with us."



Matthew 1:23

Please join us for fun and fellowship!

The Blend Schedule for Fall and Winter 2009:

December 4	Ice Skating (Youth Invited!)
December 18	Blend Holiday Party


For more information, contact Ashley Pieper, Scott Pieper or Mandy Davis.



Ice Skating



Blend Holiday Party



Sock & Skivvies Tree
 for Clifton Sanctuary Ministries


Our gifts of socks and underwear for the homeless men at Clifton last year were very much appreciated. The Witness committee plans to support this ministry again by decorating the tree in the parlor with socks and underwear. Contributions of new white tube socks, crew socks or dress socks (size 10-13), new white short sleeve tee shirts and underwear (sizes M, L, XL and XXL) should be hung or placed around the tree during Advent. Any questions? Contact Pauline Weaver at 770-938-1334.

The Clifton Night Hospitality volunteers for December are:

December 12	Ted & Suzanne Mikalsen
December 19	Bob & Pauline Weaver, Jan Kopic & Sandy Bond



Please contact Bob Weaver at 770-938-1334 to learn more about Clifton.



The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected December 13 and December 20. Watch for bulletin inserts each week to learn more about the important work done by our denomination with the funds from this offering.



Presbyterian Women at CNC



Saturday, January 9, 2010^a 10:30 a.m.

2790 Evans Woods Drive^a Doraville, GA 30340

Join us at the home of Marcia and Dean Morley for the PW winter gathering, an Epiphany Brunch. Not only will we have wonderful food and fellowship, we will also welcome a special guest, Ms. Brittany Cunningham, the principal at Sequoyah Middle School. We'll collect supply items for students at SMS and Brittany will deliver our gifts to the school (does this make her a Wise Woman bearing gifts?). We will also receive the Angel Offering, a special offering to benefit Presbyterian Homes of Georgia. So, follow the star to the Morley home and celebrate again the birth of the Christ Child!

Looking Ahead...

**Circles meet December 8
10:00 am & 6:30 pm
in the Parlor**



Members of the '09-'10 PW Coordinating Team are always available to answer your questions and be your "go to" person for Presbyterian Women:

Suzanne Mikalsen, *Moderator*
Jan Kepic, *Vice Moderator*
Marcia Morley, *Secretary*
Milly Ball, *Treasurer*
Pauline Weaver, *Community and Global Missions Leader*
Carol Payne, *Historian*
Jennelle Robertson, *Search Team Moderator*
Helen Palmour, *Spiritual Growth Leader*
Judy Cook & Marty Riviere, *Morning Circle Leaders*
Sandy Bond & Kimberley Wright, *Evening Circle Leaders*

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

Worshipping on the Sundays of Advent



First Sunday of Advent – November 29th – “What Are We Waiting For?”
Sunday Worship at 11:00 am – Luke 21:25-36

Second Sunday of Advent – December 6th – “Preparing the Way”
Sunday Worship at 11:00 am – Luke 3:1-6

Third Sunday of Advent – December 13th – “A Renewing Power”
Sunday Worship at 11:00 am – Philippians 4:4-7

Fourth Sunday of Advent – December 20th – “Making the Heart Sing”
Sunday Worship at 11:00 am – Luke 1:46-55



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service – December 24th
Lessons and Carols at 7:00 pm

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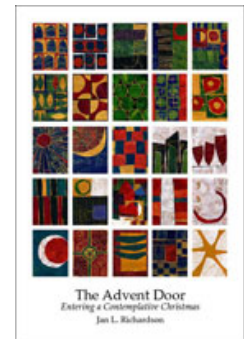
DAILY DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

The Advent Door -- <http://theadventdoor.com>

An online resource by Jan L. Richardson: “Advent is a time that beckons us to consider how—and whether—we are looking for the Christ who comes to us anew in this season. How do we keep our eyes open to the holy one who is so fond of hiding out in the most surprising disguises, again and again and again?”

Following the Star -- <http://www.d365.org>

A free daily online devotion sponsored by the PC(USA) (and others) offered 365 days of the year. Devotions are written by youth workers, educators, professors, pastors and practitioners. Each season features a new theme and a new musical background.



Messiah

By John Gugel. A booklet of daily meditations for Advent and Christmas based on the scripture texts used in George Frideric Handel’s masterpiece, *Messiah*.

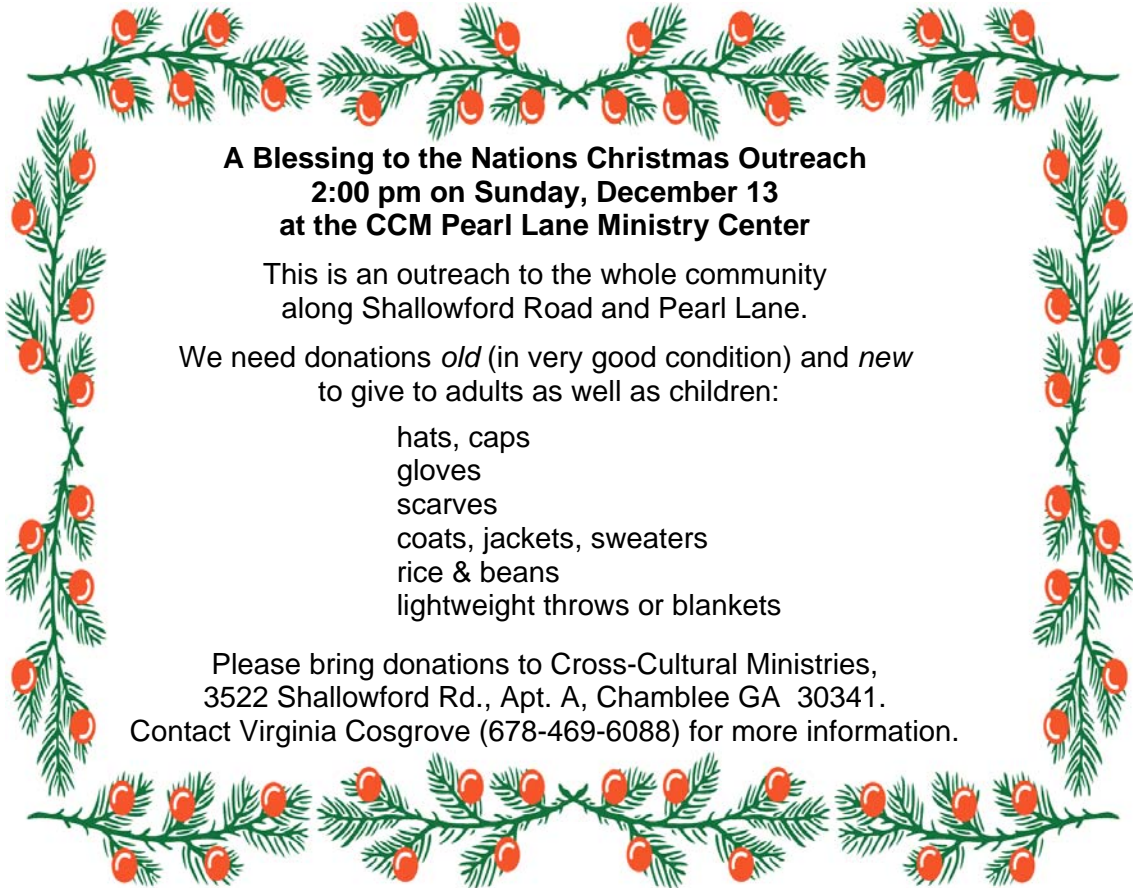
Each devotion is keyed to a selection from the *Messiah*. These verses are a classic description of the coming Messiah, foretold by the prophets. The author relates them to our everyday life and concerns, closing each meditation with a brief prayer.

We have 5 copies available in the office. We can order more if you let us know soon!



"Preach the Good News at all times, in all places, to all people. Sometimes use words."

-John Wesley



**A Blessing to the Nations Christmas Outreach
2:00 pm on Sunday, December 13
at the CCM Pearl Lane Ministry Center**

This is an outreach to the whole community
along Shallowford Road and Pearl Lane.

We need donations *old* (in very good condition) and *new*
to give to adults as well as children:

- hats, caps
- gloves
- scarves
- coats, jackets, sweaters
- rice & beans
- lightweight throws or blankets

Please bring donations to Cross-Cultural Ministries,
3522 Shallowford Rd., Apt. A, Chamblee GA 30341.
Contact Virginia Cosgrove (678-469-6088) for more information.

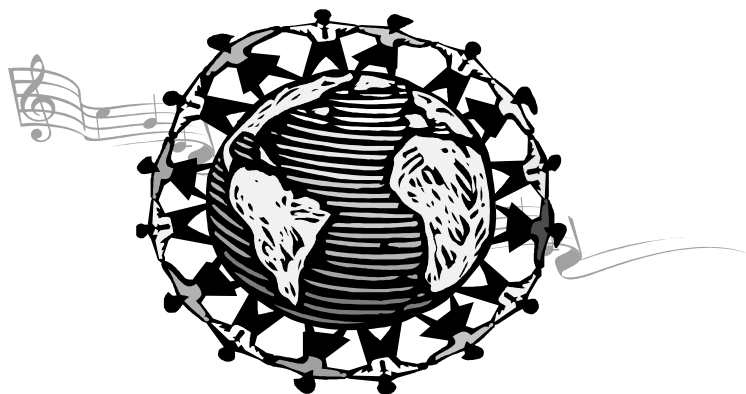


Together, transforming lives!

“John & Ralph from Church of the New
Covenant working with 1st graders on
homework, reading and math. They come
every Tuesday and are making a
difference in the lives of these children”!

(from the CCM Newsletter.....)

December 13, 2009
Presbytery of Greater Atlanta
presents it's
Sixteenth Annual Christmas Concert
A Multicultural Celebration of Christmas
"We Are One"



Radcliffe Presbyterian Church
286 Hamilton E. Holmes Dr., NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30318
at 6:00pm

Featured Presbyterian Choirs

~ **Hillside** ~ **Korean Community**

~ **College Park's Children's Choir**

~ **New Life's Miriam Dancers**

Atlanta Chapter-National Black Presbyterian Caucus'Community Choir

~ **Korean Central**

~ **New Life**

~ **Trinity (Decatur)**

sponsored by the Racial Ethnic Congregations and the Immigrant Fellowships of the Presbytery of
Greater Atlanta

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!!

December

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2 Noon HealingSvc. 6:30pm-Hndbels 7:00 pm- Yoga 7:45pm- Choir	3	4 The Blend	5 2:00 pm Bower Memorial Service with Reception following
6	7	8  10:00 am 6:30 pm Circles	9 Noon HealingSvc. 6:30pm-Hndbels 7:00 pm- Yoga 7:45pm- Choir	10	11	12 3-5pm Christmas Crafts for Kids Host Clifton
13 7:00 pm Session Meeting	14	15	16 Noon HealingSvc. 6:30pm-Hndbels 7:00 pm- Yoga 7:45pm- Choir	17 No Senior luncheon	18 The Blend	19 Host Clifton
20	21	22	23 Noon HealingSvc. 6:30pm-Hndbels 7:00 pm- Yoga 7:45pm- Choir	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Noon HealingSvc. 6:30pm-Hndbels 7:00 pm- Yoga 7:45pm- Choir	31	Sunday Morning Schedule 9:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Choir Rehearsal 10:30 am Coffee Fellowship 11:00 am Morning Worship	



December 4—Megan Butcher
December 4—Mimi Carroll
December 4—Ashley Dryman
December 7—Ann Grier
December 9—Mary Martha Riviere
December 9—Milt Riviere
December 12—Melissa Wilson

December 16—Ralph Wedd
December 20—Dean Morley
December 23—Rosemary Glenn
December 25—Milly Ball
December 26—Judy Cook
December 27—Margot Keily
December 29—Suzanne Holton