

First Presbyterian Church
Donalsonville, Georgia
“Faithfully serving Jesus Christ in
Seminole County and the world since
1898 and still growing!”
December, 2020



Happy Advent!

Advent (which means coming, manifestation, beginning) marks the beginning of our Christian liturgical year. We reflect, clear and prepare the way, repent and celebrate again our Lord Jesus Christ's coming into our world some 2020 years ago and His promise to come again some day to bring in God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven and that He comes to us, as we pray — maranatha — Come Lord Jesus!

Several years ago, our dear friend, Fran, in Columbus, Georgia, gave her daughter and me a beautiful book filled with prayers for just about everything, including these wonderful and wonderfilled words for this time of the year —

A Liturgy to Mark the Start of the Advent and Christmas Season

As we prepare our house for the coming Christmas season, we would also prepare our hearts for the returning Christ.
You came once for your people, O Lord, and you will come for us again.

Though there was no room at the inn to receive you upon your first arrival,

We would prepare you room here in our hearts and here in our home, Lord Christ.

As we decorate and celebrate, we do so to make the memory of your redemptive movement into our broken world, O God.

Our glittering ornaments and Christmas trees, Our festive carols, our scrumptious feasts —

By these small tokens we affirm that something amazing has happened in time and space —

That God, on a particular night, in a particular place, so many years ago, was born to us, an infant King, our Prince of Peace.

Our wreaths and ribbons and colored lights, our giving of gifts, our parties with friends — these have never been ends in themselves.

They are but small ways in which we repeat that sounding joy first proclaimed by angels in the skies near Bethlehem.

In view of such great tidings of love announced to us, and to all people, how can we not be moved to praise and celebration in this Advent/Christmas season?

As we decorate our tree, and as we feast and laugh and sing together, we are rehearsing our coming joy!

We are making ready to receive the One who has already, with open arms, received us!

We prepare you room here in our hearts and here in our home, Lord Christ.

Now we celebrate your first coming, Immanuel, even as we long for your promised return.

O Prince of Peace, our elder brother, return soon. We miss you so!

Amen.

Donna and I feel especially thankful and blessed to worship, fellowship and serve with you during these coming holy days!

Pastor Raymond



The sympathy of our church family is sincerely extended to Alf and Geanette Greene, Louise Royal, and all of their family in the recent death of Anne Greene Dorrell. (Psalm 90)

First Presbyterians in the News . . .

- * . . . SCES fifth grader, Malyn Smith's amazing art work in the Halloween Design and Ad contest was featured in the 10/29/30 Donalsonville News. In the same issue, she was pictured participating in a 4-H pumpkin carving activity.
- * . . . SCHS cheerleaders Ava Godwin, JoBeth Kelley, and Maggie Palmer were front and center in the 11/5/20 Donalsonville News — along with their nine fellow green and white cheerers!
- * . . . John Walker is a leader on the SCMS basketball team which won their first game of the season, scalping the Bainbridge Bearcats 52-35. Kevin Godwin is one of the coaches for the Indians.
- * . . . Lilly Hornsby and Jeb Burke were part of SCHS' winning cross county teams this year.
- * . . . Jay Palmer has received the 2020 Heisman High School Scholarship which is awarded to our nation's most esteemed high school seniors by recognizing and awarding outstanding scholar-athletes who understand that the most important victories in life happen not only on the field, but also in their schools and communities.— setting the example and making game-changing differences every day, paving the way to greatness for everyone around them. A senior, Jay is on the SCHS's winning tennis and golf teams, coached by Tina Fain and Kevin Godwin, respectively.
- * . . . 2020 SCHS homecoming royalty included William Fain (9th), JoBeth Kelley (10th), Ava Godwin (11th) and Emily Fain (12th).
- * . . . Sixth graders at SCMS recently elected 4-H officers: Maggie Hornsby is vice president of the sixth period group and Audrey Sherrer is the reporter.



2021 Confirmation classes begin in February for fifth graders and older who are ready to explore what it means to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and become a member of the church. Letters will be mailed in January to parents and then students. If you have any questions, please speak with Pastor Raymond. The good news is that we're expecting another outstanding group for the fifth year in a row! Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



3rd Vann Hornsby
Andi Alexander
4th Dottie Chandler
5th Amanda Palmer
8th Ava Williams
11th Mary Goodwin
15th Malyn Smith
16th Mary Kate Kelley
John Michael Godby
26th Matt Darley



15th Ricky & Mary Hunt
19th Bradley & Holley Grantham
23rd Dan & Andi Alexander
28th Kevin & Rendy Godwin

Bulletin & Newsletter Deadlines

For any information or announcements you would like to be added into the bulletin, please submit them to the church office no later than 10:00 a.m. on the Wednesday before. Newsletter deadlines are the 20th (12:00) of each month. Please have all information, articles, announcements, pictures, committee news, and events submitted to the church office by then. Thank you for understanding. These deadlines are important so that we can publish the information and get it sent to you in a timely manner.

Thank you!

2020 Confirmands



We warmly welcome our outstanding 2020 Confirmation class into our church membership!

Mary Kate Kelley, a sixth grader at SCMS, is the daughter of Vince Kelley and Sloane Kelley. Local grandad is Grover Kelley. Her favorite classes are chorus and math; her favorite college is UGA; and her favorite food is mac and cheese.

Brooke Robinson, a sixth grader at SCMS, is the daughter of Royce and Sesame Robinson and her local grandparents are Billy and Becky Grantham. Her favorite class is science; her favorite college is Troy University; and her favorite food is jambalaya.

Maggie Hornsby, a sixth grader at SCMS, is the daughter of Michael Hornsby and Julie Hornsby. Her local grandparents are Jimmy and Juree Hornsby. Her favorite class is enrichment and math; her favorite college is UGA; and her favorite food is spaghetti.

Colt Williams, a sixth grader at SGA, is the son of Wes and Maria Williams and his local grandparents are Wade and Lauren Spooner. His great grandmother is Martha Nell Spooner (aka Muh). His favorite class is social studies; his favorite college is UGA; and his favorite food is fried chicken.

In Our Thoughts & Prayers

Mary Goodwin
Valda Moss Roberts
Larry Harrell
Van Ponder
Carolyn McLeod
Patti Cutchens
Ensign Charles Register, US Navy
Captain Warren Youmans, US Air Force
Cloud Kirbo
Margaret Breedlove
Alf & Geanette Greene
Georgia Gale Swan Mitchell
Jerry Mallon
Allen LeGrone
Dorothy Ann Trawick
Abbie Ware
Margaret Hicks
The family of Ricky Ward
The family of Marie Spooner
People affected by Covid/vaccines
Our PNC
The Seitz (missionaries in Taiwan)



**Merry Christmas and Thank You from a
Grateful Church Staff!**

Advent and Christmas are good times for us to tell you how much we enjoy serving our Lord with you throughout the year. Thank you for your kind words and other kindnesses you share with us. If we can ever be of help to you/yours, we're here to serve. Just give us a call.

Marsha, Barbara, Terri, Bradley, Glen, Raymond, and Justin

Signs In the Kitchen

- ◆ If you don't like my cooking, lower your standards.
- ◆ This is a self-cleaning kitchen, you use it, you clean it yourself.
- ◆ There are two choices for supper in this kitchen — take it or leave it.
- ◆ Don't criticize the coffee. You may be old and weak yourself someday!
- ◆ Kitchen closed due to illness . . . I'm sick of cooking!

**NEW FLINT RIVER PRESBYTERY CAMPUS MINISTRY
BEGINS AT ABAC IN TIFTON**

Abraham's Bread is the name of the exciting new campus ministry which commenced fall semester at ABAC.

A joint effort of our presbytery and First Presbyterian Church of Tifton and Pastor Jay Hammett, pastries and breads from Paneras in Tifton which were going to be thrown away are taken to the campus on Monday mornings and given to students, faculty and staff in the name of the true Bread of Life, our Lord Jesus Christ; and the ministry will look for ways to expand this winter and spring. In addition to our faithful gifts to the mission of our presbytery of which campus ministry (now on five campuses) is such a major part, our church also made a three year commitment to Flint River Presbytery's capital effort to endow funds for campus ministries in the years to come, which we see bearing much fruit.

Pray for OUR ministries and missions at Georgia Southwestern State in Americus, Columbus State in Columbus, Valdosta State in Valdosta, Mercer in Macon, and now ABAC in Tifton; and thank you for your faithful gifts to the ever growing mission of our church, here, near and far!

Budget Update

General Account

(figures as of November 29)

Revenue:	24,646.38
Expenses:	- <u>21,259.86</u>
Difference:	3,386.52

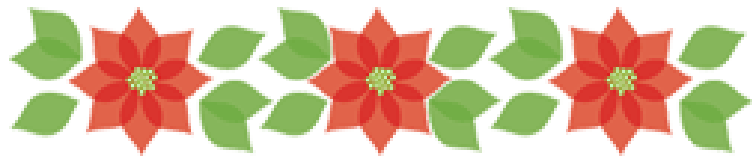
Building Account

November

Revenue:	1,160.00
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December Card Showers

- Ms. Mary Godwin is turning 100 this December 11. Let's send birthday cards to 100 Florence Avenue; Donalsonville, GA 39845
- Brenda, a special friend of our folks who have been on mission trips to Playa del Carmen, Mexico, is in prison in Florida. Simply sign your Christmas card or put "Friends from First Presbyterian Donalsonville" and place your cards on the communion table this Sunday or next.



Our Annual Christmas Joy Offering . . .

. . . Supports retired Presbyterian pastors, secretaries, missionaries, educators, et. al. living at or below the poverty level. We can give anytime during the month by simply indicating on our check to the church how much is for Christmas Joy (Note: We can do this in all of our giving. We don't have to give multiple checks. Simply indicate on the check or on an attached note how much is for what.)

**MANNA FOOD
DROP
8 AM**

DECEMBER 19

**FRIENDSHIP
UNITED
METHODIST
CHURCH**

Santa Claus Express to the Residents of the Quitman Presbyterian Home and Seminole Manor

Thanks for bringing your contributions to Quitman Presbyterian Home and Seminole Manor to the new fellowship hall by December 2. Please be sure and place your gift inside a clear, zip-locked bag and put them in the wrapped boxes located in the former fellowship hall.



Our traditional Christmas Eve service will take place at 6 pm with carols, communion, and candlelight. Casual attire is ok. Invite family, friends and neighbors to join you!

Looking for a Year-End “Over and Above” Giving Opportunity?
Here are some ideas:

- ♦ FPC Endowment Fund
- ♦ FPC Youth Fund
- ♦ FPC Maintenance Fund
- ♦ R. Guterman Family FPC Youth Trip Assistance Fund

We can simply earmark on our checks. If gifts are given as memorials or honorariums, we'll promptly acknowledge your gift.

FPC Youth News

The youth group is currently meeting on Wednesday nights with 10-13 in attendance consistently. We just finished a study by Tim Tebow entitled "This is the Day". In December, we will begin a two week study on parables in the Bible. We also have tentative plans in December for a bonfire fellowship at the Gravlee house, a date will be sent out when it is confirmed. — Justin Gravlee



Upcoming Happenings

- *December 24 Christmas Eve service at 6 pm*
- *A New Year's Sermon Series on Our Lord's Prayer*
- *2021 Confirmation Classes*

Mission Statement

The mission of our church family is to worship God in spirit and in truth;
to grow as followers of Jesus Christ; and to be led by the Holy Spirit
as we seek to be faithful in sharing the gospel with all!

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