May our Glorious God give special blessings this Christmas to those dealing with illness & pain.

Especially we remember:

Tom Murphy,  Kathy Carroll’s brother
Robbie White,  Betty Hattaway’s friend
April McMillan,  Jeannine Vinson’s granddaughter
Bill Brenner,  Bill Flory’s uncle
Amy Smith
Chris Pearson,  Sunda Coleman’s son
Leigh Humphrey, friend of Bill & Ruby Werts
Judy Powell, friend of Letha & Sandra
Angela Brewster, friend of Jackie Northington
Thomas Manley
Martha Hendricks, Dianna’s mother-in-law
Sammy, Jennifer and Nathan Miller,  friends of
Jennifer Flory

Marty Flory, Jennifer’s mother-in-law
Mary Barbara Tate
Elise Espich, friend of Deborah Pettepher
Carolyn Stanley, friend of Nita Peavy
Nancy Seelman, Sue York’s mother
Betty Owens, Joe & Charlotte’s sister-in-law
Roy Pound, Sunda Coleman’s father
Ricky Spear, brother to Vera Bales
John Fish, the Baarda’s son-in-law
Dean Clark
Tammy Bledsoe, Tom & Mary Lucik’s granddaughter
Letha Hawkins

And those with limited mobility:

Banny Lundy
Katherine Lyda, Louise Sallstrom’s mother
Jonnie Tenold, Mike Tenold’s mother
Marguerite Owens, Gloria Burns’ mother
Harold Gillis, Sr.,  Lee Gillis’ father
Laurette Smith
Sarolyn Moore

Ben Gautier
Helen Danuser
Fred Heal
Jo Ann Manley
Mary Carlton
Chuck & Ruth Treptow
Bob & Eloise Lamb

And all those traveling the roads, rails, and airways during this holy season.

OFFICE HOURS: Monday - Thursday,  8:30 - 4:30
        478-452-9394
Office will be closed December 25 - January 2

CHURCH STAFF
Interim Pastor,  Rev. Martha Starnes, revmstarnes@gmail.com
Children & Youth,  Gloria Burns, gloryb.ce@gmail.com
Admin. Asst.,  Dianna Hendricks, fpchurch@windstream.net
Treasurer,  Faye Heal, faye.heal@gcsu.edu
Music Director,  Jennifer Flory, jennifer.flory@gcsu.edu
Organist,  Flint Dollar
Child Care Providers:  Charis Andrews, Sarah Patrick, Kathleen Green

CHECK OUR WEBSITE
For bulletin, newsletters and additional information.

ONLINE GIVING

RADIO MINISTRY
WKZR (102.3FM)
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2014
GATHERING TO WORSHIP

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Angelus ad Virginem
13th Century Carol
Dr. Cliff Towner, Flint Dollar, Dr. Jennifer Flory

Fum, Fum, Fum
arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw
Sarah Kitts, Dr. Jennifer Flory, Cannon McClain, Bradley Sowell

*Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming/In the Bleak Midwinter
Deck the Halls (in 7/8)
arr. James McKelvy
Sarah Kitts, Dr. Jennifer Flory, Cannon McClain, Bradley Sowell

Gesu Bambino
Pietro Yon
Megan Gillis, Flint Dollar

Hark, the Glad Sound
Eugene Butler
Dr. Jennifer Flory, Dr. Cliff Towner, Flint Dollar, Choir

CHORAL INTROIT

O Holy Night
Adolphe Adam

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Luke 2:10, 14

One: This is the season of holy waiting.
All: On this night, we hear the angel say, “Do not be afraid.”
One: On this night we sing with the angels, “Glory to God in the highest!”
All: On this night the light of God fills the heavens and illumines the earth.
One: Come let us walk in the light of God!

LIGHTING OF CANDLES ON ADVENT WREATH

Interim Pastor & Outgoing Deacons of the Church
Deanna Bivins, Doris Moody

Reader 1: With Christians everywhere, we light Advent Candles and the Christ Candle as symbols and reminders of God’s eternal light.
Reader 2: On this eve of Christmas, our waiting, for now, is over. Our Messiah, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel is coming into our lives in a new way.
And so, along with the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love, we light the Christ Candle.
Reader 1: Let us pray together...
All: Dear God, the coming of your light into our world has brightened weary hearts with hope, peace, joy, and love. Teach and enable us to proclaim the birth of Jesus Christ, God-Incarnate, to all in the world who are still waiting. Glory to Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

*CAROL NO. 41

O Come, All Ye Faithful
arr. David Willcocks

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

One: Let your lives be songs of praise. Communicate the joy you have received.
All: We will follow the light. We will follow wherever Christ leads.
One: Emmanuel is arriving; God is with us.
All: The Holy shines on us to strengthen us, and gifts of grace and peace are ours. Alleluia!

*RESPONSE - CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
Old German carol; arr. Alan Bullard

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before Him bow, And He is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven’s door, And we are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all To gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

*POSTLUDE

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
M. J. Roberts

As you leave, please return your extinguished candles to the baskets provided in the narthex.

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GUEST SINGERS

Megan Gillis (member)
Sarah Kitts
Cannon McClain
Bradley Sowell
*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION*

One: We thank you, good and generous God, that in Jesus the Christ, you have made yourself known and have beckoned us to join you in the continual creation of a world where wolf and lamb shall dwell together and justice will roll down like waters.

All: We lift our spirits with thanksgiving for all your mercies to us that your sharing of our human situation brings. We thank you for Christmas joy.

One: We ask you to transform our joy into new lives as we find ourselves and each other in the new life of Christ Jesus.

All: Grant, to your glory, that those whose lives we touch may hear in our words and see in our lives that truly you are merciful and gracious and abounding in steadfast love! Amen.

**GOING FORTH ON CHRIST’S PATH**

**SIXTH LESSON**  
John 1:1-5, 9-14

**HOMILY**  
“To Become the Love that God Is”  
Rev. Martha Starnes

**CAROL**  
Silent Night  
Franz Xaver Gruber; arr. Alan Bullard

*lighting of individual candles around the circle*

Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round you virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing: “Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.”

Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

**SECOND LESSON**  
Isaiah 9:2-3b, 6-7  
Debbie Lamsma, reader

**CAROL**  
In the Bleak Midwinter  
Gustav Hols; arr. Alan Bullard

(choir alone will sing a verse between vs. 2&3)

In the bleak midwinter, Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

(choir sings a verse alone)

Angels and archangels May have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim Thronged the air;  
But His mother only, In her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved With a kiss.

What can I give Him, Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.

**PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS THROUGH LESSONS AND CAROLS**

**FIRST LESSON**  
Micah 5:2-5a  
John Lamsma, reader

**ANTHEM**  
Away With Your Sorrows  
William Billings; arr. Alan Bullard

As shepherds at night-fall were guarding their sheep,  
In rough rocky pastures, and nowhere to sleep,  
An angel from heaven came into their view,  
And thus he accosted the trembling few:  
Away with your sorrows, and banish your fears,  
For Jesus your Saviour in Bethlem appears!  
Away with your sorrows, and banish your fears,  
For Jesus your Saviour in Bethlem appears!

A token I leave you, where by you may find  
This heavenly stranger, this friend to mankind;  
A manger’s his cradle, a stall his abode,  
The oxen are near him and breathe on your God.

Then shepherds, be tranquil, this instant arise:  
Go visit your Saviour and see where he lies!  
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Go visit your Saviour and see where he lies!

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If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: Give my heart.
THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38
Linda Bradley, reader

Duet

Magnificat
Cissy Lane and Dr. Jennifer Flory
My soul glorifies the Lord, my soul glorifies the Lord,
My spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, God my Saviour
He looks on his servant in her lowliness
Henceforth all people will call me blest
His mercy is from age to age his mercy is on those who fear him
He puts forth his arms, he puts forth his arms in strength
And scatters the vain proud hearted in all their plans
He casts down the mighty and raises the humble,
He has filled the hungry with good things and sends
The rich away with empty hands.
He protects Israel in his mercy as was promised to our fathers
To Abraham and his children forever.
Glory to the Father, glory to the Son,
And Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning
Is now and shall be forever more.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Amen.

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7
Josefa Tchamna, reader

CAROL NO. 25
Away in a Manger

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16
Joel Burns, reader

ANTHEM
Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow
Trad. American; arr. Gordon Thornett
There’s a star in the east on Christmas morn, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
It will lead to the place where the Saviour’s born, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
Leave your sheep and leave your lambs, Leave your ewes and leave your rams,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow. Follow, follow, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
Follow the star, the star of Bethlehem, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
If you take good heed to the angel’s words, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
You’ll forget your flocks, you’ll forget your herds, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
Leave your sheep and leave your lambs, Leave your ewes and leave your rams,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow. Follow, follow, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
Follow the star, the star of Bethlehem, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow. Follow, follow, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
Follow the star, the star of Bethlehem, Rise up, shepherd, and follow,
Rise up, shepherd, and follow

RESPONDING TO THE GOOD NEWS

CONVERSATION WITH THE CHILDREN
Anne Smart

THE OFFERING
OFFERTORY
Still, Still, Still
Austrian carol; arr. Mack Wilberg
Still, still, still, The child’s eyes softly close.
And Mary, breathless, draws him, weeping,
To her heart made pure for keeping.
Still, still, still, His bright eyes softly close.
Sing, sing, sing, He hears and sweetly smiles.
And kneeling, Joseph joins in chorus
with the angels bending o’er us.
Sing, sing, sing, He hears and sweetly smiles.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, He breathes a tender sigh,
For soon he’ll wake from slumber,
bringing life and endless wonder.
Sleep, sleep, sleep. He breathes a tender sigh.
Sleep, Holy Jesus, sleep, sleep, sleep.

*RESPONSE

What Child is This?
Trad. English; arr. Antony Baldwin
What Child is this, who, laid to rest, On Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!

Why lies He in such mean estate Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nail, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Savior comes, The cross be borne for me, for you.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh; Come, one and all, to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise your song on high, While Mary sings a lullaby.
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.