



# The Churchmouse

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**NOVEMBER 20, 2009**

9190 Campbellton St, Douglasville GA, 30134 • 770-942-0710 • Fax 770-949-3481

<http://www.fpcdouglasville.org> • e-mail: [office@fpcdouglasville.org](mailto:office@fpcdouglasville.org)

Job postings: [Godsemploymentnetwork.blogspot.com](http://Godsemploymentnetwork.blogspot.com) • Pastor on call 678-292-5020

A NEW ENGLANDER NAMED JOSHUA SMITH compiled, in 1784, a collection of writings called, "Divine Hymns Or Spiritual Songs." In it was a poem called "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree." The author is unknown. It is an interesting perspective on the life of Jesus. Not widely known, when it does surface, it usually does so during Christmas.

*The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil,  
Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be,  
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.*

*... Christ will come again  
to usher in the New  
Heaven and New Earth  
where we will once again  
have the joy of walking  
and talking with God.*

**THE POET IS REFLECTING ON JESUS** as the new Adam who overturns the old Adam's sin in the Garden of Eden. It is similar to the connection Paul made between Jesus and Adam in Romans 5:12-21, particularly verse 18. During Christmas we celebrate that God began the process of overturning the sin of Adam and Eve. We also look forward to when Christ will come again to usher in the New Heaven and New Earth where we will once again have the joy of walking and talking with God.

**DON'T YOU THINK IT IS GOD'S DESIRE** that all people know what Jesus accomplished? Is there someone you know in your neighborhood or business or elsewhere that needs to know this Good

News? Invite someone to the many opportunities at FPC to celebrate the Christmas season. It is one of the easiest times of the year to reach your friends for Christ. Christmas is so ingrained in our culture that people are often open to attending Christmas events more than any others we have to offer.

Blessings,  
James

## HIGHLIGHTS - SESSION MEETING, 11-16-09

- A formal CIF (Church Information Form) was submitted to the session by the APNC, and was approved.
- Several members were moved to the inactive rolls.
- The Outreach Division will produce a CD of Christmas music. They will also provide note cards listing this year's scheduled Christmas events at our church.
- A fence will be erected at the back of the church property for safety and security purposes.
- Session approved the Administration Division's proposed guidelines for the Benevolence Restricted Fund.



**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL THANKSGIVING MORNING PANCAKE BREAKFAST** hosted by our Youth on November 26, at 8:30 a.m., in the Jeffords Center. Enjoy pancakes, bacon, coffee and juice. Donations will benefit youth missions. At 10:00 a.m. please join us,

also in the Jeffords Center, for a special service of "**giving thanks**". Bring your visiting friends and relatives with you, and let's give praise and thanks to God!

## WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN?

A class to help folks learn about what Presbyterians believe and how we live that out, will meet in the Church parlor on Sunday, December 6, 9:30-10:30 a.m. Childcare is available in the Church nursery.

**THE NEXT "JOINING DAY" FOR FOLKS READY TO BECOME MEMBERS IS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, AT 12:15 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM.** Please seek out one of the pastors to assist you in uniting with our congregation.

**The Church office will close at noon on November 25 and will be closed November 26 & 27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: MONDAY-THURSDAY, 7:30 AM- 5:00 PM; FRIDAY 7:30 AM-1:00 PM**

**DEADLINE for articles for the next "Churchmouse" is Monday, December 14, at 4 p.m.**

# LOCAL MINISTRIES



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## SUPPORT GROUPS

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**DOUGLAS COUNTY DISABILITIES COALITION** will meet on Tuesday, December 1, at 7:00 p.m. in Rm 203.

**BEREAVED PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP** will meet Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in Room 207.

**M.S. SUPPORT GROUP** will on meet Thursday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m. in the Church parlor.

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## PRAYER GROUPS

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**MOMENT FOR PRAYER** is for persons seeking support and healing and is held every Monday at 5:45 p.m. in the Parlor. There is a mighty team of pray-ers ready to pray with you or anyone you know who needs the power of prayer in their lives for any reason. Come join us to be prayed for or to pray with others!

**THE EMERGENCY PRAYER BAND** accepts requests for emergency prayer needs for members of our church and their families via email. You may email Alicia Schillinger, [aschillin\\_2000@yahoo.com](mailto:aschillin_2000@yahoo.com) or the church office at [office@fpcdouglasville.org](mailto:office@fpcdouglasville.org) with prayer requests.

**PRAYER LISTS** of those who are ill, shut-in, or in the military are updated weekly and available at the Welcome Desk. **Be a blessing** to those you know on the list by calling or sending a card of encouragement. Call the Church Office to place someone on the list and help keep the list current by calling with any changes. Thank you.

**GOD'S EMPLOYMENT NETWORK (GEN)** will not meet November 24 and December 22 and 29 during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Job postings are accessible anytime through the ministry's blog at: [Godsemploymentnetwork.blogspot.com](http://Godsemploymentnetwork.blogspot.com).

**GEN meets Tuesdays at First Presbyterian Church, 7:30-9 a.m. & Thursdays, 7-8:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church.**

**EXTRA FOOD WILL BE NEEDED at the Good Samaritan Center for the holidays!** Contributions of non-perishable packaged or canned foods may be left in the baskets located at the Sanctuary entrances and the CE stairwell. Thank you!



**THE ANNUAL TOY DRIVE continues through Nov. 29!** Boy & girl toys are needed for ages infant-14 yrs. The gifts will be distributed by *A Gift of Love* to local children. Place unwrapped toys in the baskets located throughout the church.

**THE THORNWELL OFFERING** will be received Sunday, Nov. 29, with special offering envelopes provided in the bulletins. Please remember the children at Thornwell and be generous with your donations. Thornwell provides more than 400 children with food, clothes, health care, educational support, training in the faith and values of the Christian community, and someone to care for them in a healthy family setting. **Thornwell Turkeys** were sent home with elementary children attending Sunday School on Nov. 15. Please encourage your child to help with special chores around the house to fill the turkey with coins to assist in supporting Thornwell. Turkeys may be returned to Sunday School teachers or placed in the offering plate on Nov.29.

**SANTA EXPRESS IS UNDERWAY** to collect gifts for Presbyterian Village residents. A list of needs is posted in the Narthex with a collection box. Bring your donations in a clean zip-lock bag. **DO NOT WRAP YOUR GIFTS!** THE deadline is Dec. 6.



**THIS CHRISTMAS, WHEN YOU REMEMBER LOVED ONES, WHY NOT ALSO BLESS THOSE IN NEED?** The Local Mission Committee is offering "Gifts of the Magi" Christmas

cards, which include a donation to a local or global ministry of your choice. The cards range in price from \$2 to \$30. For example, you may choose to donate \$5 to provide a child with school supplies through **A Gift of Love**, or \$15 to provide a Christmas dinner for a family through **The Pantry**, or \$25 to sponsor a woman in the **HOPE project**. Cards will be available in the Narthex through Dec. 13. The cards will inform the recipient the organization and gift given in their name (but not the dollar amount). Most important, 100% of the purchase price goes to the charity you choose!



Sometimes it takes more than a parka or a blanket to keep another person warm. Sometimes it takes the presence of a caring Christian friend. Stephen Ministers share the warmth of God's love with those who need it the most: the lonely, the depressed, the grieving. If you need someone to listen and be there for you, you may need a Stephen Minister. Call Jane Hubbard, 770-942-0710 or Nan Gordon at 770-456-8131.

# News and Upcoming Events

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN IS HONORING THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOR

COME ENJOY THE SPECIAL ADVENT SERVICES AND MUSIC. LET FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS KNOW THAT WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE THEM JOIN US IN CELEBRATION! PRINTED CARDS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE WELCOME CENTER LISTING THE FOLLOWING EVENTS. PICK UP A FEW AND PASS THEM OUT!

### Christmas Candlelight Concert

*A gift to the community*

Sunday, December 6 at 3:00 p.m.

in the Church Sanctuary

followed by a reception in the Jefford's Center

Come and enjoy the beautiful music of Christmas.

In celebration of the coming birth of Jesus Christ our Savior and Light of the World we offer our praises!

**Celebration Singers, The Children's Choir,  
Sanctuary Choir and Sanctuary Ringers**

### THE CHILDREN'S CHOIR PRESENTS

#### The Next Noel

You are invited to attend the Children's Christmas Program on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:00PM. The performance will take place in the Jeffords Center following dinner. Come and enjoy seeing and hearing our children as they present a musical that brings the message "humble worship is what our response should be at Christmas and all lifelong".

### Christmas Music Enriches Worship

On Sunday, Dec. 13, our choirs will be enhancing worship with music that celebrates the good news of Christmas. Come enjoy the richness of this season carried on the wings of song, and add your voices to the praise!

### Golden Bells of Atlanta

The Golden Bells of Atlanta will perform on Monday, Dec. 21, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Our own Brooke Griffin and Frank Buttler will appear along with Belvis and the Belvettes. Golden Bells is comprised of ringers from the metro area. Donations at the door are appreciated.

### Three Services on Christmas Eve

We expect overflow crowds on Christmas Eve as many from our community join us in giving thanks to God for the gift of his Son. We will have our usual three services. The 5 p.m. service is designed especially for families with young children. It will feature readings & carols, with children acting out the nativity scene and it will conclude with candle lighting. Traditional services will be held at 7:00 and 11:00 p.m. with the usual carols, communion and candles. A nursery will be provided at 5:00 and 7:00, but not at 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve is a great time for seekers to hear the Good News. Invite your friends and neighbors, and bring along your visiting family. Let's prepare our hearts for the celebration of our Savior's birth.

**GREENING OF THE CHURCH** will take place Saturday after Thanksgiving, November 28th from 9-12 noon. Coffee, hot chocolate and donuts provided. Great way to start your shopping day! Angie Stanfield is our new chair this year and is really counting on great help! We are asking Small Groups and Sunday School classes to sign up to decorate one room or area. We also will need volunteers to take down and pack decorations in January. Look for sign up sheets on the first Sunday in November! Anyone not in Sunday School or Small Group who is interested in helping, email Angie or Jane ([stanfieldca@comcast.net](mailto:stanfieldca@comcast.net)) or [jane@fpcdouglasville.org](mailto:jane@fpcdouglasville.org).

**THE VIP'S HOLIDAY GATHERING** is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec. 16th. The planned outing is for Marietta's Theater on the Square production of "Sanders Family Christmas". Cost is \$18.00 plus money for lunch. Call Judy Douglas, by Nov. 9, for reservations at 770-949-6111.

**DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY** class will be offered again Wednesday nights beginning in January. There are thirteen weekly topics to help you develop a life style to manage your finances. A 20 minute preview video will be shown in the Conference Room at 10:30 on Sunday, Dec. 6 and at 10:30 and 12:15 on Sunday, Dec. 13. Registration sheets are available at the Information Desk in the Narthex. The course/membership is \$99.50 and the deadline to register is Sunday, December 20. This is be a GREAT Christmas gift idea that would be valued many times over. Call Ed Ireland, 770-949-3454 for more information.

### PARENTS, NEED A SATURDAY WITHOUT THE KIDS?

The FPC Youth and some of their advisors will be offering babysitting services on Dec. 12th, 9am-1pm. Reservations are required by Dec. 6th and may be made via email to Tonya at [tonya@fpcdouglasville.org](mailto:tonya@fpcdouglasville.org). Please include your child's name and age. Parents are asked to provide a sack lunch for their child. The youth's services are offered in exchange for donations that will go towards the FPC Benevolence Fund.

### FROM THE SAFETY/SECURITY COMMITTEE . . .

**The following areas** have been identified by the Douglasville Fire Marshal as fire lanes for emergency vehicles:

- Driveway adjacent to the chapel accessing rear parking.
- Area near the church mail box.
- Apex area to the right of the visitor parking/handicapped parking in front of the sanctuary.
- Exit lane in the north parking lot leading to Hospital Dr.

**The areas are identified by No Parking signs, and must remain clear to allow emergency vehicles to gain entry to our church.**

**Members or groups** using the church facilities during the week are asked, as they leave, to turn out all lights, secure all doors, and reset thermostats to original settings. Thank you. **We are seeking volunteers** to monitor our church parking lot on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings to insure the security of parked vehicles, safety of members, ensure that emergency lanes are clear, and assist any visitors. Interested? contact Joe Cheak, 770-949-4939, or [Kevincheak@aol.com](mailto:Kevincheak@aol.com).

# Church School Notes . . . from the desk of Judy Derringer

**ADVENT DEVOTIONAL** books will be available in the Narthex, for use during the season of Advent starting the first Sunday of Advent, November 29. The devotional book, "A Grand Miracle", features familiar Christmas and Advent texts of Scripture placed side by side with bits and pieces from the works of C.S. Lewis. To imagine that the infinite Creator of the universe would come to earth as a child, Immanuel – "God with us", is indeed a "grand miracle". Children in Sunday School will receive their own advent tools for use at home with family while a limited number of booklets for teens/youth will also be available. Prepare yourself this Advent season to receive anew the child in the manger who made his dwelling place among us, Jesus Christ.

**WONDERFUL WEDNESDAYS** will conclude for 2009 on December 16th with the Children's Music Project Christmas musical, "The Next Noel", in the Jeffords Center following dinner. You'll not want to miss this inspiring and fun seasonal presentation sung by our children in grades 1-5. We'll resume regular WW dinner and activities on January 20, 2009. Watch the mini-mouse and January MOUSE for details on adult classes to be offered January-May.

**CHRISTMAS EVE 5 P.M.  
CHILDREN'S WORSHIP  
SERVICE**



## Elementary Children

in grades 1-3 are invited to participate in acting out the nativity scene during our 5 PM Children's Christmas Eve worship service.

**Parts available: \*Grades 1-2: angels and shepherds;  
\*Grade 3: Mary, Joseph, wise men, angels and shepherds**  
Rehearsal attendance is required in the sanctuary on Weds, Dec. 23, at 10 AM. Parents must remain during this short rehearsal. Contact Judy Derringer to participate: 770-942-0710 or judy@fpcdouglasville.org. Costumes will be provided.

**OLDER ELEMENTARY (GRADES 3-5)** will enjoy a special Christmas Outreach Celebration on December 13th from 4:00-6:00 p.m.. A signed parental permission slip will be required for activities on this day. Forms will be available on the day of the event. We will gather in Room 111/112. For details on this activity, Please contact: Judy Derringer (Judy@fpcdouglasville.org) or Dixie Boyd (770-942-4823).

## Small Groups Connecting our Community

The path to *spiritual maturity* includes:

- ◇ Regular participation in Worship
- ◇ Sharing what the Lord has provided through tithing
- ◇ Daily prayer and regular study of God's Word
- ◇ Serving others in the name of Christ
- ◇ Small Group connecting/community



Small groups focus on building *spiritual maturity* through fellowship, service, prayer and study.

The Session has set a goal of **Ten in 10**; forming 10 new small groups in 2010. These new groups will form and work together during Lent 2010. To accomplish this goal the Small Group committee developed a plan to identify 10 leaders for these new small groups and begin a training process for them in January. The leaders will meet as a small group a few weeks and then form 10 new small groups.

If you sense the Spirit nudging you toward small group leadership please stop by the Small Group table in the Narthex. A friendly, helpful committee member will be there to give you more information.

**ORDER YOUR LIVE POINSETTIAS** to be placed in the Sanctuary December 20 and 24 in honor or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$8.25 for each potted plant. Please make your check payable to First Presbyterian Church at the time of your order. The deadline for orders is December 6!



I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER

\_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ poinsettia(s) in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

# News of First Church Folks

## WE WELCOME INTO THE WORK, FELLOWSHIP AND WORSHIP OF OUR CHURCH FAMILY:

**John Rigdon and his son David Rigdon.** John and David moved to this area from Augusta, GA where they were members of Lakemont Presbyterian Church. They both joined by Transfer of Letter. John is self-employed and his hobbies include the Civil War and Haiti missions.

**Frank and Connie Cochran.** Frank and Jenny join us with their children Jenny, age 6, and Logan, age 3. Connie made her Profession of Faith and was baptized with the children on Sunday, November 15. She enjoys being a stay-at-home mom. Frank joined by Reaffirmation. His interests are his family, reading and poker.

**Watch for photos of our newest members soon on the New Member bulletin board outside the Sanctuary.**

*Dear FPC family,*

*Magan and I have enjoyed hosting you in our home during the "Meet and Sweets" visits. If you haven't had a chance to stop by yet, be sure to watch the Mini-Mouse. Soon we'll announce some additional dates, starting in mid-January, when we hope you can drop in for dessert, coffee, and fellowship. We look forward to meeting you all!*

*Blessings, James and Magan Harper*



This year **all Youth are hosting the Christmas card exchange** with the proceeds going towards our **BRINGIN' IT HOME** efforts...

You may "mail" Christmas cards to FPC members in the Narthex for

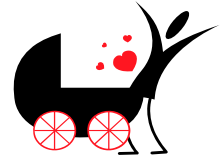
25¢ each November 22-December 6. Because the cards will be organized and bundled by family groups **we CANNOT accept cards after Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>**. Please include the family's **FIRST AND LAST** names.

**Members may pick up their cards Dec. 13-27<sup>th</sup>.**

**LITURGISTS ARE NEEDED** for the 8:15 and 11:00 services. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to serve on an occasional basis with the readings given to you. Training for new Liturgists will be held on Wednesday, December 2, at 6:30 pm, in the Sanctuary. Please prayerfully consider serving in this way. If you wish to serve in this ministry please contact Linda Culver at [linda@fpcdouglassville.org](mailto:linda@fpcdouglassville.org).

## *New Arrival . . .*

*Oliver Lee Ritz  
born October 19  
to Andy and Leslie Ritz*



## *Thank you . . .*

*Dear all,  
The faith and love that flows from First Presbyterian is truly astonishing and so very supportive. We love you all. Hopefully we will see you in December.*

*Celia and Don Scarbrough*

*Dear Church family,*

*Thank you for the many calls of concern, cards and flowers of encouragement and visits bearing gifts and food. The surgery went well and I'm thankful for continuing good health. You have followed the scriptural commandment to "love one another."*

*Judy Douglas*

*Dear friends,*

*Thanks so much to everyone for the kindnesses shown to me during recovery from my biking accident. God has been gracious to me during this time of healing and has provided encouragement and support through this church family. I'm so grateful for the blessings received and appreciate every card, picture and prayer offered on my behalf.*

*With love, Judy Derringer*

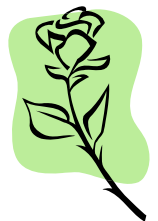
## *We extend our Christian love and sympathy to . . .*

*Norma Huey, family and friends in the death of our own Joe Huey.*

*Virginia Forlaw, family and friends in the death of our own Lloyd Forlaw.*

*Dusty Cantrell, Jake and Josh Cantrell, Melissa Roberts, family and friends in the death of our own Debbie Cantrell.*

*Kelly Rogers in the death of her grandmother.*



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### 11:00 WORSHIP NURSERY - DECEMBER 2009

Thank you for serving in FPC's nurseries! When it is your turn to serve, please be in your assigned classroom by 10:45AM to assist the staff caregivers with drop-off time. If you cannot serve on your scheduled day, please try to switch places with someone on this rotation, and notify your group leader that a change has been made. If you cannot make a switch, or if you have a last-minute problem or illness, please contact your group leader. May God bless you as you bless His little ones!

**Group Leader: Missy Holland**

#### WEEK 1 - DECEMBER 6

I - Beverly Benton  
 T - Brenda Fangman

#### WEEK 2 - DECEMBER 13

I - Melinda Morris  
 T - Nicole Harterink

#### WEEK 3 - DECEMBER 20

I - Susan Coulter-Wall and Jodi Davis  
 T - Nathalie Joseph and Jessica Owen

#### WEEK 4 - DECEMBER 27

I - Sandra Fisher and Valli Robinson  
 T - Holly Bradley



## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- |                     |                    |                      |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Ryan Dapkus       | 7 Fran Moir        | 16 Ashley Crook      | 24 Holli Bradford  |
| Achere Eno          | Leah Robinson      | Mark Southers        | Amalie Cochran     |
| Carol Hopkins       | Nicholas York      | 17 Ava Leeth         | Tom Coughlin       |
| Britney Ngwese      | 8 Vic Macias       | Kenzie Methven       | Jenny Dalton       |
| Joshua Preston      | 9 Ed Eschete       | Andrew Ritz          | Bob Suber          |
| 2 Amy Helton        | Charlotte Hoel     | Bryce Robinson       | 25 Carol Baird     |
| 3 Cora Bryant       | Elliott Robertson  | 18 Polly Grauso      | David Brooks       |
| Sharon Schillinger  | 10 Ashley Perkins  | Gloria Harracksingh  | Ashley Holloway    |
| 4 Madeline Gibbs    | Reid Wingate       | Lauren McNeill       | 26 Hugh Boyd       |
| Emily McDonald      | 11 Charlie Branson | 19 Sarah Behrman     | Jenni Preston      |
| Owen Parrish        | Samantha Damerow   | David Brooks         | 27 Ken Hatcher     |
| 5 Brad Ascar        | Doris Hohn         | Kelly Denton         | 28 Les Dixon       |
| Wilbur Blackman     | 12 Steve Freestone | Joseph Guger         | Bill Holbrook      |
| Jill Bonner         | Tom Hamilton       | Caleb Murray         | Nana Pokua-Bawua   |
| Ray Norton          | 13 Cathy York      | 20 Beverly Benton    | 29 Jerry Broadway  |
| Lue Smith           | 14 Frank Clark     | 21 Jeramiah Hurkmans | Charles Mfortow    |
| 6 Darryl Baxter     | Daniel Morris      | Jim Tucker           | Bill Kimbrough     |
| Lane Brooks         | Judy Wallace       | 22 Amy Libby         | Candi Richards     |
| Ann Sherrill        | 15 Lowell Dennis   | Paul Obese           | Alicia Schillinger |
| 7 Christopher Breed | Matt Malone        | 23 Corbin Knight     | 30 Raymond Boyd    |
| Cheryl Ireland      | Eric Preston       | Heather Ormiston     | Ginger Turnbough   |
|                     |                    |                      | 31 Edd Lovvorn     |