

THE CALL

First Presbyterian Church | Gainesville, Georgia | January 6, 2019

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Kindred in Christ,

JANUARY 6, 2019

Epiphany of the Lord

Rev. Lee Koontz

Genesis 1:1-5 and Matthew 2:1-12

Recalculating...

9:00 Morning Light Worship

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Traditional Worship

Chancel Choir

Arise, Shine!

Now the Silence

JANUARY 13, 2019

Baptism of the Lord

Rev. Lee Koontz

9:00 Morning Light Worship

10:00 Sunday School

11:00 Traditional Worship

Denise Nylander and BJ Maher

Piano / Organ Duet: *Lord of the Dance*

Chancel Choir: *I Will Arise*

Happy New Year! As the calendar turns to 2019 I hope that you will join me in looking forward to the upcoming year with a great deal of anticipation and excitement about what God is doing in our midst. We are incredibly blessed in the next several weeks to be gathering for some very special events, and I pray that you will be blessed by each one.

Much of what we do together, of course, happens through prayer. I'm excited about our upcoming prayer breakfast on January 12th at 8:30 a.m. in Swetenburg Hall. This breakfast is an annual event that seeks to lift up the work of our missionary partners around the world. This year we'll be welcoming the Rev. Heather Koontz (my wife!) to the breakfast to speak. Please make plans to come join us as we pray, eat, and celebrate the work that so many are doing around the world to tell the story of God's love in Jesus Christ. Keep in mind that we will also be focusing on our church's missional efforts in some very exciting ways during our WOW programs in January as we prepare for our 20th annual World Mission Conference in February!

We will also be having our annual congregational meeting on Sunday, January 27th at 10:00 a.m. in Swetenburg Hall. During this meeting we will take care of some procedural matters, receive the 2019 budget that has been approved by the Session, and show some appreciation for our outgoing church officers. We will also be distributing copies of our Annual Report so that you can stay informed about all the good work being done across all ministries of the church.

Finally, you know I can't write this article without mentioning that our endeavor to read through the entire Bible together in 2019 has begun! We're only a few days into the new year, so it's not too late to get started! Reading the Bible in a year makes for a great new year's resolution of course, but we are doing this in the hopes that it will help us to all grow in our faith together in a new way. My plan is to plan our worship services and sermons around some of the texts that we're reading together, but we'll be reflecting on a very small slice of each week's readings in worship. I encourage you to get together with other friends or family members to discuss the readings as we go. I'm excited about the ways in which our eyes will be opened to God's Word as we join this journey together!

To all of you who are working, giving, serving, and praying as Christ's body here at FPC Gainesville, THANK YOU! It is a tremendous blessing to see the exciting ways in which God is at work through your efforts, and I pray that our commitment will grow in 2019 as we seek God's vision for us together.

Grace and Peace,
Lee

LECTIONARY

Jan 6—Jer. 31:7-14; Ps. 147:12-20;

Eph. 1:3-14; John 1:(1-9), 21-22

Jan 13—Isa. 43:1-7; Ps. 29; Acts 8:14-17;

Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

SUNDAY SERVANTS

JANUARY 6

Chancel Flower Guild—Lynne Plummer,
Julie Ferguson, Lynn Hulsey
Sound and Lighting—Rick Plummer
Greeters and Ushers

9:00—Jeff Parker, Head Usher; Nathan Good, Carroll Todd, Ushers; Lora Jones, Greeter

11:00—Beth Kessler, Head Usher; Lee Ann James, Andy and Stacy Morley, James Pierce, Chris Wheeler, Ushers; Carol Squires, Greeter

JANUARY 13

Chancel Flower Guild—Lynne Plummer,
Julie Ferguson, Lynn Hulsey
Sound and Lighting—Jerry Reeves
Greeters and Ushers

9:00—Jeff Parker, Head Usher; Nathan Good, Carroll Todd, Ushers; Lora Jones, Greeter

11:00—Beth Kessler, Head Usher; Lee Ann James, Andy and Stacy Morley, James Pierce, Chris Wheeler, Ushers; Carol Squires, Greeter

SYMPATHY to the family and friends on the passing of Eleanor Dunlap, August 3, 2018.

WELCOME TO *New Members*



Gerda Groff

Joined December 9, 2018

FPC MINISTRY INCOME

Total Ministry Budget 2018.....	1,440,000
Income needed each week.....	27,170
Income received December 16.....	25,500
Income received December 23.....	33,487
Income needed year-to-date.....	1,412,308
Income received year-to-date.....	1,388,963
Surplus or (deficit) year-to-date.....	(23,345)



The 15-week Perspectives on the World Christian Movement course that was taken by 12 of our FPC members this past fall on the FPC campus was extremely powerful for their faith development and deeper understanding of God's greatest commandment and great commission, locally as well as across the globe. The Missions Committee urges you and others in our church family to take the course and become Perspectives alumni and supporters. Funds have been donated to the church that will reimburse church members for two-thirds of their Perspectives course registration (\$200 of the \$295 fee). Simply bring a copy of your paid registration to Debbie Holcombe in the church office, and she will get a check cut for your reimbursement. Perspectives course offerings in our local area can be found at www.perspectives.org. The next closest and upcoming Perspectives course opportunity is at Sugar Hill United Methodist Church starting **January 15 on Tuesday nights weekly from 6:00-9:00 pm** until April 30, 2019. There is no penalty for missing a class or two during the series, but you'll want to attend as many as you can because the different featured speakers each week are so powerful. Perspectives is also offered online. Please prayerfully consider adding Perspectives to your faith journey.

Women's Bible Study

We invite all to join us for great discussion and fellowship as we join the church in the study of the "Bible in One Year".

We continue to meet the 2nd and 4th Monday each month, 12:00-1:00 pm. Our study will begin January 14. We welcome regular and occasional participants! You may call Ellen Wren at 770-654-0545 or Susan Nish 770-538-5995 for more information.

Note from church publisher:

Pick up a copy of "Bible in One Year Reading Plan" at the information desk.

WOW | January 9

We will celebrate the New Year by *Remembering our Baptism*, presented by Rev. Lee Koontz. Reservations for dinner may be made by calling the church office, 770.532.0136, or by filling in the number of reservations on the Friendship Register on the same line as your name. Meal Deal Passes will be available January 9 at sign in.

THANK YOU FPC children, youth and adults for your generous support of Operation Christmas Child in 2018. Our church family packed and delivered 253 shoeboxes this year and contributed \$2,150 for their accompanying message about God's Greatest Gift of Jesus and their delivery worldwide by Samaritan's Purse. May our prayers for these boxes bring great joy to the children who receive them and their families!

FINANCIAL PEACE

UNIVERSITY returns to FPC

Millions of people have gone through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University (FPU) and learned God's ways of handling money. You will work a plan, rewrite your story, and change your future as you work through this 9-week program and learn the 7 Baby Steps to financial peace.

Thoughts from class members: "Initially I thought it was too late for me, 20-30 years of saving has passed me by. However, I was motivated to reduce debt, change spending habits, and reminded about savings...some things you are never too old for!"

"The concept of saving money is so simple, but it always felt so complicated. This class has made me see how easy it is to save one step at a time."

"This really works! I was so tired of feeling 'a day late and a dollar short!' The system taught by Dave Ramsey shows a workable way out of the debt trap!"

Topics covered include Super Saving, Relating with Money Cash Flow Planning, Dumping Debt, Buyer Beware, Life Insurance, Retirement, and College Planning.

FPU is taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey, via video, and incorporates small group discussions that help encourage accountability and discipleship. **(Private details are always kept private.)**

START DATE: Classes begin the week of **January 16, 2019 and continue through**

March 20, 6:00-7:30 pm in M303. Class members may choose to bring a sack supper or fast food, or pick up a hot meal offered at the church on Wednesday nights for \$6/adult. Dinner line opens at 5:45 in Swetenburg. Eating can occur prior to or during the video at 6:00.

COST: \$109 per family (Scholarship assistance is available, see Denise.)

CHILDCARE: Provided free with RESERVATION through church office, call 770.532.0136 for arrangements.

REGISTER: <http://www.fpu.com/1080970>

QUESTIONS: Call or text Denise Nylander, Volunteer Coordinator, cell: 678.617.0868.



WMC 2019 Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, January 12 9 am
(No charge for breakfast)

Heather Koontz will be our speaker. Her message is titled "Seeds, Planted." She will share stories about seeds of local and global mission and service that were planted in her life at a young age and how they continue to grow and bear fruit. Breakfast will be served at 9 am. Please call the church office to make a reservation.

Housing for Missionaries

We need volunteers to provide housing for our WMC missionaries Friday and Saturday nights (**February 1 and 2**). If you can host one or two, please call Genie Comley, 770-536-5288, or email gcomley@hotmail.com.

YOUTH MINISTRY

2019: Read the Bible in a Year

Youth will read the CEB translation. This is the translation that Children and Youth Ministries gives out each year. Dallas, Director of Youth, also recommends it for adults. Also, a study Bible will help give you more insight to certain words or phrases that you might not understand.

HAPPY NEW YEAR PRAYER—For those who preach, teach and serve the kingdom—*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit.* 1 Corinthians 12:4

Loving God, we thank you for challenges. Help us to have the strength and courage to meet the challenges of this new year. We want to follow you and use the gifts we have for your service. May we always be ready to answer your call. Come, let us walk in the light of the Lord. In the name of Christ our Lord, we pray, Amen
 - Ruth Staley



Guatemala Mission Trip Reservations

Anne Hallum is organizing a mission trip with AIR-Guatemala for FPC members on June 2 through June 9, 2019. A flyer is available at the information desk. If interested in going, please reserve your place via email at Anne.Hallum@AIRGuatemala.org or call (770) 534-9529. Anne may also have availability on two other weeks in June (6/9-16 and 6/16-23). Please email or call Anne for more information.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Am I being called to be a Stephen Minister? Here are comments from those that have asked for a Stephen Minister in their times of need.

Here is what Brian had to say about his Stephen Minister.

"My Stephen Minister listens, really listens. He doesn't judge me to tell me what to do but walks side by side with me. I never realized how helpful and healing that can be. With his care and support, I'm making it through."

Celeste says how she feels about her Stephen Minister. *"My Stephen Minister loves me, listens to me, cares for me, prays for me, supports me, and gives me a safe, confidential relationship where I can totally share my heart. No matter how much I have to unload on her, she listens to whatever is going on."*

Consider if you could be one of these dedicated people that walk with those in need. If you feel this is something you can do, please pray about it and consider taking the Stephen Ministry training class that will be presented this fall here at First Presbyterian Church.

If you want a Stephen Minister to walk with you through a hard time please call Pastor Lee or Pastor Shon or one of the Stephen Leaders.

- Ida Cook 770-297-6795
- Linda Spencer 770-287-3232
- Linda Snowden 404-667-6217
- Tracy Lees-Grant 551-427-4747

THE WOODS OF LANIER NATURE

PRESERVE offer the best cure for cabin fever. After all the wet days, perhaps you can take advantage of the trails and, in the process, contribute to this First Presbyterian internal mission as caretakers of God's beautiful creation. Mardi Morris

DONATIONS RECEIVED

In Memory of...

- Paula Newkirk**
 by Mary Carden
 by Anonymous
 by Marlinton Presbyterian Church
 by Martha Hodge
 by Roscoe and Melissa McMillan
- George Morris**
 by Ed and Sharon Rugg
 by Jeff and Angie Parker
 by Barbara Hermann
 by Anonymous
- Bob Ashburn**, father of Shelley Collins
 by Geneva Harben
- Bruce Doll**
 by Anonymous
- Perin Stowers**
 by Anonymous
- Louise MCGowan**
 by Anonymous
- Rob Roberts**
 by Anonymous
- Kris Golden**
 by Anonymous

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Monday, January 7, 9:45 am—The Morning Bible Study group will meet in Swetenburg Hall. Janet Hesser's Team 2 will be hosting our social time. Dallas Thompson will be reviewing Lesson 5 in our Horizon Bible Study book.

Tuesday, January 8, 7 pm—The Evening Bible Study group meets in Room M303.

JANUARY MISSION PROJECT is CASA (Hall-Dawson County Court Appointed Special Advocates). This wonderful nonprofit organization ensures that abused and neglected children have the right to a safe placement and a permanent home. Trained volunteers advocate for the best interests of these children who have to appear in court. How can PW help? Financial donations are always needed. Write your check to Presbyterian Women and in remarks put "CASA". Diapers of all sizes and wipes are needed at their visitation center, as well as donations of gym bags/suitcases for teens in foster care when they have to move from one placement to another.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
800 SOUTH ENOTA DRIVE, NE
GAINESVILLE, GEORGIA 30501

www.fpcga.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT
GAINESVILLE, GA

USPS 555-440

"The Call" Issue 6 January 2019 published
bi-weekly free by First Presbyterian Church,
800 S. Enota Dr. NE, Gainesville, GA
30501-2431. POSTMASTER: send address
changes to "The Call," 800 S. Enota Dr. NE,
Gainesville, GA 30501-2431.

CHURCH CALENDAR

—Week 1—

SUNDAY, JANUARY 6, 2019

9:00am Morning Light Worship
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
6:00pm Youth Fellowship
6:00pm Chancel Ringers

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 2019

9:45am PW Monthly Meeting SH
11:00am FPC Staff Meeting CR
2:00pm Gentle Yoga SH503
6:00pm Worship Cmte CR
6:30pm Beginners' Sq Dancing Class, Gym

TUESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2019

9:00am Yoga SH503
10:00am Prayer Group, Cabin 1
5:00pm Adult Ministry CR*
5:30pm AA Group, Lake House
6:30pm Congregational Care, Cabin 1*
6:30pm Fellowship Ministry M303*
6:30pm Outreach Ministry, Cabin 4*
7:00pm LCS Rehearsal, Choir Room
7:00pm PW Night Circle CR
7:15pm The Diaconate M303*

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2019

9:30am Dogwood Garden Club, Parlor
10:45am Primetime Singers
12:00pm Gentle Yoga SH503
5:15pm Andrew Ministry, Cabin 1
5:45pm WOW Supper & Activities
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 2019

9:00am Yoga SH503
10:00am Lanier Women's Club SH503/SH
5:00pm Youth Ministry Team, Youth Area*
6:00pm Children's Ministry Team, Cabin 3*
7:00pm Book Club CR

FRIDAY, JANUARY 11, 2019

6:00pm Kids Night Out

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019

9:00am World Mission Prayer Breakfast SH

—Week 2—

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019

9:00am Morning Light Worship SH
10:00am Sunday School
11:00am Traditional Worship, Sanctuary
12:15pm Stephen Ministry Check In M303*
6:00pm Youth Fellowship
6:00pm Chancel Ringers

MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019

12:00pm Ladies' Bible Study M303
2:00pm Gentle Yoga SH503
2:00pm Stephen Ministry Leaders CR*
6:30pm Beginners' Sq Dancing Class, Gym

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2019

9:00am Yoga SH503
10:00am Prayer Group, Cabin 1
1:30pm Endow Grants Cmte CR
3:00pm Operating Budget Cmte CR*
4:00pm CDC Council M303*
5:30pm AA Group, Lake House
7:00pm LCS Rehearsal, Choir Room

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019

10:45am Primetime Singers
12:00pm Gentle Yoga SH503
4:00pm Investment Cmte CR*
5:15pm Andrew Ministry, Cabin 1
5:45pm WOW Supper & Activities
7:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17, 2019

9:00am Yoga SH503
10:00am Wonderful Works M303
5:00pm Phoenix, Lake House
6:00pm Faith Development CR*

FRIDAY, JANUARY 18, 2019

SATURDAY, JANUARY 19, 2019

1:00pm Walk in the Woods, Elachee
7:30pm Lakeshore Squares, Gym

*Committee Meeting

CR Conference Room, SH-Swetenburg Hall

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

December 23—9:00/137 • 11:00/231

Christmas Eve—3:00/124 • 5:00/317
11:00/93

December 30—9:00/139 • 11:00/175

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday 8:30-4:30

CONTACT US

Church Office..... 770-532-0136
Child Development Center 770-532-8188
FAX..... 770-287-1397
Holiday, Weekend Emergency. 770-718-8584

Lee Koontz, Senior Pastor23
Shon Peppers, Associate Pastor12
Margaret Turney-Ayer13
Interim Director of Faith Development
Sam Marley, Director of Choirs.....36
Sophie Shoults37
Contemporary Worship Leader
Dallas Thompson15
Director of Youth Ministry
Ali Thompson.29
Director of Children's Ministry
Ronny Childs35
Audio/Visual Coordinator
BJ Maher, Substitute Organist
Debbie Holcombe, Administrator11
Deidre Edmonds, Admin. Assistant23
Donnice McAlister, Accountant14
Sue Ann Rogers, Publisher20