

Welcome to Church of the Master

Where our doors are open wide to everyone, and our hearts shut to no one seeking to find a safe place for spiritual life, growth and fellowship. It is our prayer that we provide an atmosphere of the tender presence of God in our worship gathering. If you are looking for a fellowship to join, whether you are a spiritual seeker just beginning your walk toward God, or a committed believer continuing your walk with God, we welcome you with open arms here at Church of the Master. If you would like to talk about your faith, pray, or become a church member, please see an elder, pastor or call the church at any time. It is our desire that you experience a real and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Again, the Church of the Master family is honored to have you worship with us.

Vision Statement

Church of the Master Presbyterian Church exists to...

BRING people into relationship with Jesus Christ (Matthew 28:19-20)

NURTURE them into mature Christians (Colossians 1:28)

DEVELOP their God-given talents for service in the Church and the world at-large; (Matthew 10:1)

CELEBRATE God in worship. (Psalm 95: 1-2)

These things we do to **GLORIFY** God. (Exodus 20:3)

Elder of the Month: Authur Jones

Deacon of the Month: Voncile Anderson

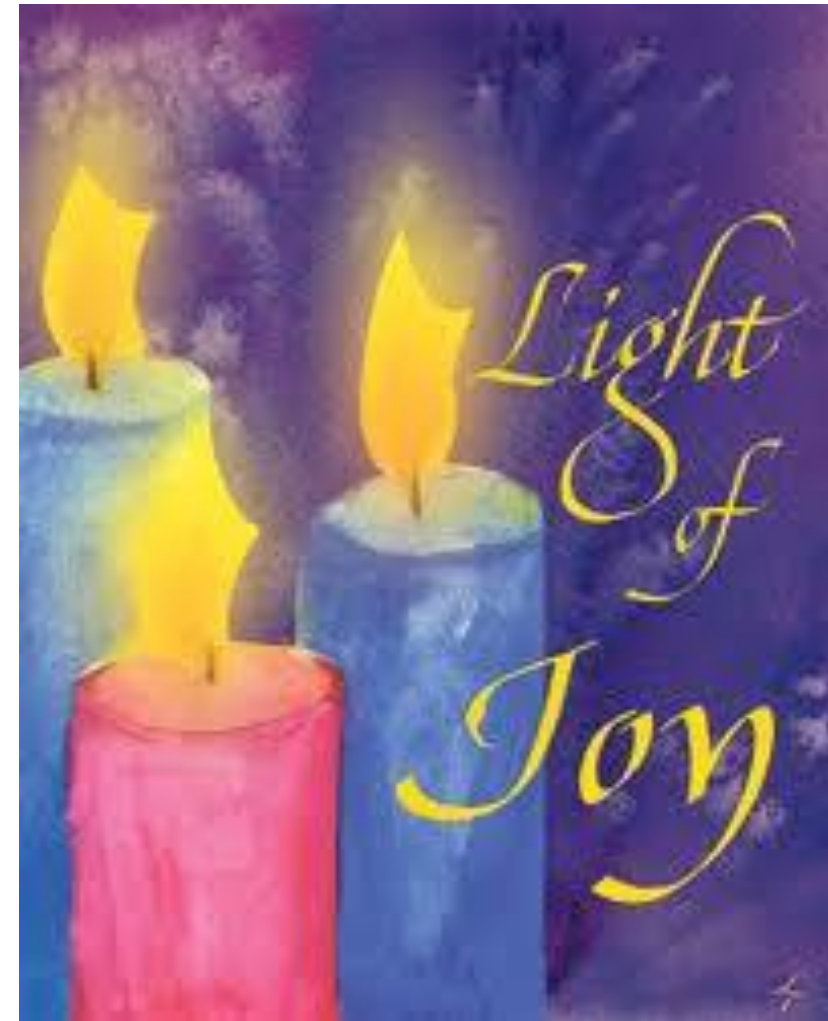
Music Ministry: Ann McPhail, Music Director and Lelia (Dee Dee) Bolden, Instrumentalist

Ministers: Sylvia Wilson, Wylie Hughes and members of the congregation

Church of the Master Presbyterian Church (USA)

Sunday, December 11, 2011

10:30 a.m.



3400 Martin Luther King, Jr., Drive, S.W.

Atlanta, GA 30331

404-691-5113

cotm_pcusa@bellsouth.net

www.churchofthemaster.wordpress.com

THE GATHERING

3rd Sunday of Advent

The people gather in the sanctuary in response to God's call, offering God their praise and opening their hearts to receive God's presence.

Prelude

Lighting of the Candles and Processional

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

*** Call to Worship (Psalm 126)**

Leader: When the LORD restored our fortunes, we were like those who dream.

People: **Then the mouth was filed with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joys; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."**

Leader: The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

People: **Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.**

ALL: **May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy. Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy. Praise be to God!**

***Opening Hymn** "Come, Thou Almighty King" #145

***Invitation to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession**

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

***Silent Confession/Words of Assurance**

Music Selection "Let Everything That Hath Breath"

By Drs. Mattie Moss Clark and George Pass

Welcome of Visitors and Friends/Community Concerns

Passing of the Peace

Minute for Mission

Children's Lesson

THE WORD AND RESPONSE

Scriptures are read and their message is proclaimed. The people sing songs of faith and respond to the proclamation of God's Word through expressions of faith, commitment and offering.

Offering (Please place pledges, tithes and general offerings in the plates and benevolence offerings in the baskets.) *"Bring your offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your free will offerings...because the Lord your God has blessed you." Deuteronomy 14:22-23*

Offertory "I'll Stand Until" By Kirk Franklin, soloist James Howard

***Doxology and Prayer** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" #592

Prayer for Illumination (Unison)

Guide us, O God, by your Word, and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace; through Christ our lord, Amen.

Scripture Reading(s)	Old Testament	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	pg. 691
	New Testament	Luke 1:46b-55	pg. 57

Sermon Selection "Give Myself Away" By William McDowell" Soloist Kendra Matthews

Sermon "Reasons To Rejoice" Rev. Sylvia Wilson

Response to the Word

THE SENDING OUT

The people are sent forth with God's blessing to serve.

***Closing Hymn** "Rejoice, Ye Pure In Heart" #139

***Charge and Benediction**

Recessional and postlude

*** All who are able please stand**

CHURCH ACTIVITIES		NORMAL OFFICE HOURS
Sunday	9:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	
Monday		4:-00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (Rev. Sylvia Wilson)
Tuesday	11:30 a.m. Brown Bag Bible Study	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Min. Wylie Hughes)
Wednesday	5:30 p.m.-8 p.m. Cantor/Solo Rehearsal 7:00 pm-8:15 pm Adult Choir Rehearsal	4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. (Rev. Sylvia Wilson)
Thursday	7:00 .pm. NA Meeting	
Friday	7:00 p.m. AA Meeting	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. (Min. Wylie Hughes)
Saturday	7:00 p.m. NA Meeting	

Church of the Master Presbyterian Church

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 Music Ministry: Ann McPhail, Music Director Lelia (Dee Dee) Bolden, Instrumentalist
 Rev. Wilson 404-642-0255 mypastor@gmail.com or revsjwilson@hotmail.com
 Minister Hughes 404-484-5303 wylievhughes@gmail.com

SERMON NOTES

A bit about Advent

Advent is the beginning of the church year for most churches in the West. It begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day and ends on Christmas Eve.

“Advent” means “coming” or “arrival.” During the season of Advent, we celebrate Christ’s coming into the world and watch with expectant hope for his coming again. In its historical origins, the season of Advent was patterned after the season of Lent, a six-week period of penitence and preparation for Easter. Similarly, the four weeks of Advent present an opportunity for communal discernment and personal examination, as the church prepares to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord and looks with hope for Christ’s return.

The traditional color for Advent is Purple although many Protestant churches now use blue to distinguish the season of Advent from Lenten season.

The circle of the Advent Wreath reminds us of God’s eternity and endless mercy, which has no beginning or end. The green of the wreath speaks of the hope that we have in God, the hope of newness, of renewal, of eternal life. Candles symbolize the light of God coming into the world through the birth of His son. The four outer candles represent the period of waiting during the four Sundays of Advent, which themselves symbolize the four centuries of waiting between the prophet Malachi and the birth of Christ.

3rd CANDLE – (pink) **THE SHEPHERD CANDLE or THE CANDLE OF JOY** – The angels sang a message of JOY! “...and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and

placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.' When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.'" (Luke 2:7-15).

Please Pray for...

Our Sick and Shut In

- **Elder Elaine Adger**, as she recuperates at home, 547 Lynhurst Drive, SW, Atlanta 30311
- **Alberta Gilbert**, mother of Elder Lousie Trice, Golden Crest Assisted Living Center, 2160 Lake Harbin Road, Morrow 30260. Her telephone # is 770-968-6875.
- **Jamil el Shair's mother**, Mrs Hattie Reshard, Golden Living Center, 4115 Glenwood Road, Decatur, GA 30032.

Other Concerns

- **Victims, students, perpetrators and any adult who kept silent at Penn State**
- **Elders**, Deacons, ministers and ongoing mission of COTM.
- **Our senior** citizens and disabled neighbors who fear the loss of their Social Security and Medicare; **Children**, teachers and administrators who are returning to school; **Children** and their families in the Horn of Africa facing drought, famine and starvation; **The people** of Norway, the coast of Africa, the Holy Land, Atlanta and elsewhere who mourn loved ones killed by war and other violence; **The people** across this nation in their ongoing struggle to recover from storms, floods, tornadoes, wildfires, oil spills and other disasters.



Happy Birthday to all December Celebrants!

May God bless and keep you.

- 1)**Rev. Grady Anderson & Ralph Armstrong
10)Maurice (Tre') Knight III **14)**Patricia Kelley
16)Cheryl Clay **17)**Edwin (KJ) Green Jr.
19)Anthony Meadows **22)**Takara Clay **24)**Cherika Clay
26)Diamond Givens **27)**Yvonne Churchwell

Guest Artist: Mr. James Howard is a native of Fayetteville, North Carolina. He is an accomplished singer and brass player and has taught music in the Atlanta Public Schools for over 20 years. This is his second visit this year to Church of the Master.

Children's Christmas Program, December 18 - *The Infant King: A Celebration of the Christ Child in Scripture, Story and Song.* Rehearsal at 1 p.m. Dec. 17.

The Giving Tree – Please be sure to collect a gift tag and return your gift by to the church by December 18. For additional information, see Elder Louise Trice.

Dr. Fahed Abu-Akel, Executive Director, AMIS Ministry with international students, is seeking hosts for 30 international college students and scholars who will visit the Christmas International House here in Atlanta. These students will be far from home and in need of some Southern hospitality during their two week stay. If you are interested in hosting and housing one or more of these students during the Christmas holidays, please contact Rev. Wilson.

St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church offers an Advent Concert, Sunday, December 11, 6-8 p.m. St. Anthony is located in the Historic West End of Atlanta at 928 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd. SW. Atlanta 30310-1875. For more information call 404-758-8861.

The Whiz Kids community tutoring program sponsored by the Partnership Ministry of Hillside Presbyterian-Decatur and First Presbyterian-Atlanta needs volunteers to donate one hour per week tutoring an elementary student at Snapfinger Elementary School in Decatur on Wednesday afternoons. For more information please contact Rev. Connie Lee at 404-228-7741 or fpc_hillside@bellsouth.net.

Year-end reports from moderators: This is done in preparation for our annual congregation meeting that is held the third Sunday in January. Deadline is Wednesday December 28.

Westhills Presbyterian Church's Christmas's Eve Candlelight Service, 12/24/2011 at 7:00 pm. Location 2600 Fairburn Road, S.W. , Atlanta GA, 30331.