

# Crossings

December 2011



## ***Prayer and Stewardship: Hearing God's Voice***

A wise man once told me that my intuition, that voice inside my head, was God talking to me. The question was whether I was willing to listen. We often come to that voice with fear: financial fears, job worries, family struggles, the pressures of everyday life, and the noise of the world around us.

Most of all, and particularly when it comes to stewardship, we don't trust that most intimate of voices.

That voice is telling us scary things—to give our money away, to share time that we don't think we have, to open our hearts and reach out to others when there is a risk that they will fail us or prove ungrateful.

The voice is telling us to help. Help someone...anyone. And we know in our marrow that if we do it, it will make us feel good. We know the Kingdom of Heaven here on Earth will be advanced. But we are holding on to something for dear life. We simply can't let go. Fear.

Trusting that voice from God takes time, it takes practice. And it often takes silence. Is it a coincidence that the words "silent" and "listen" are spelled with the same letters? Probably. But it's a pretty cool coincidence.

Asking God what God desires for you is only half the job of discernment. Then comes silence. Stillness. Listening.

In the silence when we are listening, we learn that we are not in control of our intuition. It comes to us like the breath of the Holy Spirit. If we don't try to steer it one way or the other, it can be refreshing and liberating.

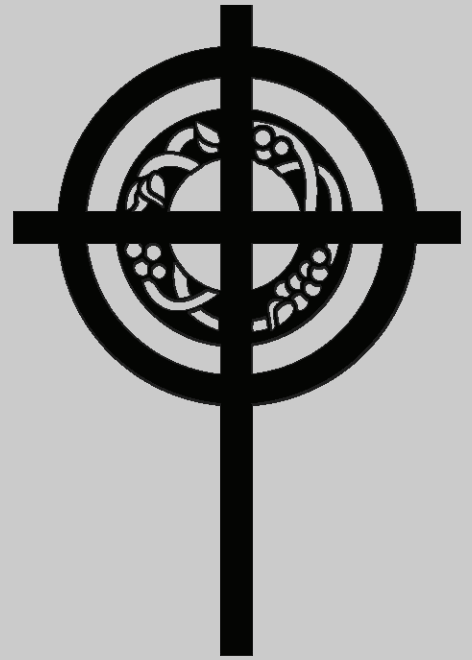
Unlike other things in our life, there is no time limit on listening. Have you ever heard someone regret too much silence? Have you ever heard someone complain about a person who listens too much?

Our values are deep in our hearts, deeper than our concerns over the economy, busy schedules, or our kids' college funds. They are deeper than the stress of rush hour traffic, car repairs, or the next presidential election. And all the while that voice is singing to us softly. We simply need to find a quiet place each morning, ask God how we can best follow God's desires, then be still and listen.

And if we have done the best we can, we get to pause at bedtime and say thank you for the gift of another day of giving.

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- ***News for Children (page 3)***
- ***Worship in Advent (page 4)***
- ***Christian Education (page 5)***
- ***Upcoming Dates (page 6)***
- ***KidsConnect (page 7)***

## CHURCH STAFF

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Pastor Emeritus  
The Rev. Dr. Fitzhugh Legerton

Ministers  
All Members of OPC

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:45 Bible Basics  
10 am Christian Education  
11 am Worship

[www.opcbrookhaven.org](http://www.opcbrookhaven.org)

*Next Deadline*  
January 20, 2011

## CLERK'S CORNER

Linda Jones

## CLERKS CORNER Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church November 20, 2011

**The Session of OPC met on November 20, 2011 and the following items were decided:**

Approved the Session minutes from September 18 and October 16, 2011 meetings

Approved hosting a concert at OPC featuring singer/songwriter/Presbyterian David Lamotte on Friday, February 17, 2012. Ticket prices will be \$10. Total cost including deposit will be \$1700. Oglethorpe Univ will cover the \$500 deposit. (from Fellowship, Mission, and Worship)

Approved expenditure of \$1000 more on heating system.

### FOR INFORMATION:

Session approved the Congregational Ministry Team grant via email vote.

Session approved the expenditure to repair the boiler and ask for donations via email vote.

There will be a vigil held in the chapel from 12n-1pm on Weds. Dec. 1 2011 in honor of World AIDS Day (from Worship)

The Alternative Gift Market will also feature Carey Morris' hand-made cards to support a future mission trip to Guatemala. (from Mission)

Held discussion on preliminary budget. Session will hold another meeting on Dec 4, 2011 for further budget discussion.

## In Memoriam

*Lucy Perkerson*

*Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.  
— Romans 8:39*

## DEACONS

**People in Our Prayers:** Junior Gibson (husband of preschool teacher); Nancy Molitor (Beebes' friend); Mike Poley (Cindy Alexander's son-in-law); Libba Sweeney; Julia Combs (June Woods' granddaughter); Dr. Ahmed (Marthame Sanders' friend); Bill Smith; Jill Tolbert's family; Carol Moore; Evelyn Clegg; Erin Fallica (Rachel Isley's friend); Pattie Penn (Pat Morrison's niece); Tommy Patterson (Jill Tolbert's father); Connie Delinski; Libby Moler (Mary Ratliff's niece), Beth Smith, (John Wikle's friend); Beth Cunningham; Haemin Lee; Lori Prettyman; Bruce Powell (Diane Powell's brother), Jamie Blackwell (Terah Blackwell's husband, OPP teacher); Paul Stephens (Kim Graves's father); Mary Zumot (Fahed Abu-Akel's wife); June Woods; Dick Smith; Lee Marley; Tinsley Gilmer (Jane Gilmer's great grand-daughter); Charles Gorton; Sarah Crump (Bill Smith's mother); Donna Cassidy (Brandon Cassidy's aunt); Martha Stoy; Jose Jimenez (Mary Shanks' student); Vivian Hall; Joe Hensley (JoAnn Kearns' father); Susan Clegg; Freda and Charles Sacco (Claire Blake's family); Helen Fritsche (Ben Ostrowsky's grandmother); James Thomas; Florence Aleh; Virginia Servidio (Samantha Servidio's grandmother); Draden Moore (Kathy O'Connor's son); Helen Ottah Aleh (Florence Aleh's mother); Fulvio Andreani (Genie Stringer's friend); The Hickman family (Betty Sanders' friends); Catherine Buckner (Linda Jones' family); OPC community members in need of prayer; Cynthia Bolbach, Moderator of the PC(USA); OPC Christian Education program; friends at Journey, the Druid Hill Night Shelter.

We are so grateful for THE STAFF AT OPC. Every day of the year they are caring for our congregation, our community, and our church. We would like to show our appreciation though a Christmas bonus. If you would like to contribute, please do so by December 18 using the envelopes in the pew and marking it for Staff Bonus. If you have questions or would like to give but didn't do so in church, please contact Brad Beebe ([brad.beebe@mindspring.com](mailto:brad.beebe@mindspring.com) or 770.906.1122).

# Little Hands.....Big Feats

*Oglethorpe Presbyterian Preschool*

December 2011

What a wonderful time of year December brings; the beautiful lights, the crisp cool weather, the excitement of Christmas and birth of Christ. Please take some time for your self to enjoy the season and rejoice.

We had a wonderful Thanksgiving feast last month with yummy food for all our children to taste. Our children cooked in their classrooms and contributed to all the wonderful food our parents brought. Thank you for volunteering by bringing food, for set up, serving and for clean-up.

Our food drive for the OPC food pantry was a great success. Thank you for contributing to this wonderful ministry. They also spent time in the classroom sharing what they are thankful for.

Angel Tree: OPP/OPC is sponsoring Fairy Tale Learning Center and Our House for families in need of gifts for their little ones at Christmas. Please consider sponsoring a child by choosing an Angel from our Christmas Tree in the lobby. Directions on how to sponsor a child are posted above a sign out book and I will send this via email, as well. We have 146 Angels this year!

Through December we will be practicing Christmas songs for our program which is Dec. 16 at 11 am. Please be sure to join us to hear your children sing. If your child attends Tues./Thurs., please bring them to their classroom at 10:45 and proceed to the Sanctuary. Our units this month will include; children around the world, Christmas holiday traditions, baby Jesus and lots and lots of art for the holidays.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Blessings,

*Beverly Moon*

Beverly Moon  
OPP Director  
404.233.5479

Saturday, December 10 Parents' Morning Out-Drop and Shop at OPC! 9 am - 1 pm Cost: \$25 per child/\$15 per additional sibling and space is limited.

Thursday, December 15 Carols, Cookies and Cocoa and HORSES TOO! 5:30 pm Come meet our friends Kit and Kate, the two horses who will be pulling our wagon as we take the kids caroling!

Every Sunday in December 9:45 am Advent Crafts and lessons Every Sunday morning in December at 9:45 the children will be lead through Bible stories of the birth of Jesus, and they will create a beautiful keepsake craft with Marilyn Peatman.

Sunday, December 18 Advent Choral Performance with our Children's Voices

We have a lot of opportunities for your family to join us during the month of December. Check out all of the happenings below, and please plan to come and enjoy the Christmas Season at OPC!



**CONNECT**  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY AT OPC



# DVENT

Celebrate the Season!

December means different things to different people. For some, it is the time we see in the faces of little children. For others, it is when we reconnect with friends and family. And for still others, it is the season of reflection as we prepare to celebrate of the birth of Christ.

Whatever your reason for celebrating this season, we invite you to come celebrate with us at Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church.

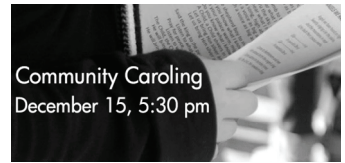
**Dec. 8 at 7pm**

**Taizé Advent Service:** meditative worship for the Advent season. This simple service mixes prayer and song, periods of silence, candle light, and communion for a reflective way to contemplate the season and prepare for Christmas.



**Dec. 15 at 5:30pm**

**Community Caroling:** spreading the joy of Christmas throughout Brookhaven. Our families go door-to-door, bringing Christmas cheer to our neighbors and our community.



**Dec. 18 at 11am**

**The Christmas Light:** an Advent Cantata. Arranged by Patrick M. Liebergen, this presentation includes masterwork choruses by Mendelssohn, Mozart, and Schubert, as well as Christmas carols by Gruber and Handel. Worship with us as our adult, children, and bell choirs help us to sing in the season.



**Dec. 24 at 5pm**

**Christmas Eve Worship:** a family-friendly celebration of the birth of Christ. Come worship with us as we celebrate the birth of Christ, remembering the true reason for the season. The whole family is welcome in this cherished Christmas tradition of carols, candles, and communion.



**Dec. 25 at 11am**

**Acoustic Christmas.** Tired of "Christmas as usual"? Come and hear your favorite Christmas songs in a new way. It's a perfect, mellow way to round out the Christmas season.



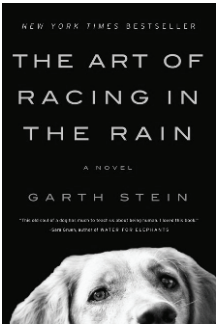
We look forward to celebrating with you!



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Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church  
The community is our congregation.

## OPC Monthly Book Group



The book club will be meeting on December 10th at 7:00 PM at Bonnie Holler 's home to discuss The Art of Racing in the Rain.



**Advent Pause and Pray, Sunday mornings at 10AM:** All OPC youth and adults are invited to join us in the Halfway Room as we consider what it means to move From Longing to Receiving this Advent season. On Sunday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, Jill Tolbert will help us consider what it means to anticipate God's presence among us. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, Marthame Sanders will facilitate a conversation about what it means to look for and recognize God's work among us, and on December 18<sup>th</sup>, Trip Porch will lead us in a discussion of what it means to receive God's new gifts to us. Join us for coffee, pastries, and a time of fellowship and learning!

### Bible Basics Advent Crafts and Lessons on Sunday Mornings:

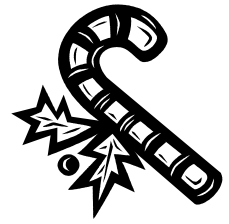
Every Sunday morning in December at 9:45 the children will be lead through Bible stories of the birth of Jesus, and they will create a beautiful keepsake craft with Marilyn Peatman. Come each week and collect them all!



Every Sunday the children gather upstairs at 9:45 am for 15 minutes of all-age worship and fellowship. At 10:00 a.m. we split into Kids'Quest (Pre-K through 1st) and Kids'Haven (2nd through 5th/6th).

Our kids are learning the Bible through crafts, scripture and stories, songs, and friendships.

Looking for creative holiday gifts which will also benefit OPC's mission activities? Stop by the **Alternative Gift Market** which will be held in the narthex on Sunday, December 4 and 11! You'll be able to purchase such items as olive oil from the Middle East, organic fair trade coffee from South America, and pecans from right here in the American South. Each will benefit particular ministries we support. In addition, you can make donations to buy specific needed items for the Interfaith Outreach Home and our own OPC Food Pantry. You'll get a custom-made card with each purchase which informs your family and friends that their gift also serves a higher purpose! If you have questions, please contact Jeff Morris at 770.452.1799.



## Poinsettias for Christmas

You may purchase a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary on December 18, to honor or remember someone special. After Sunday Worship, take your poinsettia home to enjoy during Christmas week. The suggested donation is \$13. The deadline for ordering is December 9. The list of those being honored or remembered will be printed in the bulletin and in the following month's *Crossings*. You may send in the information and a check or use the order form available on Sundays.



*I would like to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the Sanctuary in honor of or memory of the following person/people:*

IN HONOR OF:

IN MEMORY OF:

GIVEN BY:

*(Please write names as you would like them recorded in the bulletin).*

\_\_\_ # of poinsettias at \$13 each

# Calendar December 2011 & Early January 2012

## Friday, December 2

9am-2pm Bargain Sale  
10 am Food Pantry

## Saturday, December 3

9am-2pm Bargain Sale  
10 am Hanging of the Greens

## Sunday, December 4

9:45 Bible Basics with Advent Crafts  
10:00 Advent Pause and Pray  
11:00 Worship  
Brandon Cassidy, sound; John Wikle, PowerPoint; Nancy Minnich, Amy Chance, counters; Diane Leyburn, nursery; Margy Jones, Jr., refreshments; Nancy & Cortlandt Minnich, Amy & Jeff Chance, ushers; Charles Hawthorne, Ruth Walker, greeters.

12:00 Alternative Gift Market  
12:00 Called Session Meeting

## Tuesday, December 6

10 am Food Pantry

## Wednesday, December 7

7:30 First Wednesday Meeting

## Thursday, December 8

7 pm Taize Advent Service

## Friday, December 9

10 am Food Pantry

## Saturday, December 10

9am-1pm Parents Morning Out-Shop and Drop at OPC  
9-12-Church Workday

## Sunday, December 11

9:45 Bible Basics with Advent Crafts  
10:00 Advent Pause and Pray  
11:00 Worship  
Chris Hagler, liturgist; Jeff Morris, sound; Mary Ann Hawthorne, PowerPoint; Samantha Cassidy, Margy Jones, counters; Jen Ratliff, nursery; Pat Morrison, refreshments; Fran and Robin Gray, Emily and Carl Texter, ushers; Charles Hawthorne, Ruth Walker, greeters.

## Monday, December 12

7pm OPC Book Club (Bonnie Hollers House)

## Tuesday, December 13

10 am Food Pantry

## Thursday, December 15

5:30-7:30 Carols, Cookies and Cocoa

## Friday, December 16

10 am Food Pantry  
Last day of OPP until Jan. 4

## Sunday, December 18

9:45 Bible Basics with Advent Crafts  
10:00 Advent Pause and Pray  
11:00 Worship *The Christmas Light*  
Cantata with adult, bell and children choirs  
Liturgist: Linda Morris  
PowerPoint: Rebecca Hagler  
Counters: Georgia Gunter, Sharon Hall  
Nursery: Kim Lovingood  
Sound: Geoff Stephenson  
Refreshments: Barbara Landes  
Greeters: Lee Chang, Jean Cox  
Ushers: Georgia Gunter, Jamil Zainaldin, Anna/Jim Coulter, Sharon Hall  
12pm Session meeting

## Tuesday, December 20

10 am Food Pantry

## Friday, December 23

Food Pantry Closed ?

## Saturday, December 24

5 pm Candlelight Worship  
Liturgist: Reyn Langwell  
Volunteers needed for:  
PowerPoint:  
Sound:  
Nursery:  
Counters:  
Refreshments:  
Greeters:  
Ushers:  
Elders for Communion: Linda Jones + 2

## Sunday, December 25

Acoustic Christmas Celebration  
Liturgist: Ingrid Kelly, Susannah Morris  
Volunteers needed for:  
PowerPoint:  
Sound:  
Nursery:  
Counters:  
Refreshments:  
Greeters:  
Ushers:

## Monday - Friday, December 26-30

Church Office closed

## Tuesday, December 27

10 am Food Pantry

## Wednesday, December 29

No handbell or choir rehearsal

## Friday, December 30

Food Pantry closed?

## Sunday, January 1

Liturgist: Marilyn Peatman  
Volunteers needed for:  
PowerPoint:  
Sound:  
Nursery:  
Counters:  
Refreshments:  
Greeters:  
Ushers:  
Ushers: Pat Morrison, Carol Moore, Sharon Hall, Anna and Jim Coulter

## Tuesday, January 3

10 am Food Pantry

## Wednesday, January 4

Preschool back in session  
7:30 First Wednesday Meetings

## Friday, January 6

Food Pantry

## **Other Regular Weekly Meetings**

(except when noted above)

### **Tuesdays:**

8pm Alcoholics Anonymous (FH)

### **Wednesdays:**

5:15pm Centering Prayer Group (Parlor)  
6:15pm Handbells (Sanctuary)  
7:30pm Chancel Choir (Sanctuary)

### **Fridays:**

8pm Alcoholics Anonymous (FH)

11/10/11

Dear Friends at OPC,  
Thank you so much for the many blessings and kindnesses you have sent my way. They have meant so much to me. I thank God for your prayers, cards and visits.

With Love,  
Evelyn (Clegg)

(actual letter on bulletin board outside the office)

# UPCOMING EVENTS FOR DECEMBER



## PARENTS' MORNING OUT – SHOP AND DROP AT OPC!

Saturday Morning, December 10

9 AM – 1 PM

\$25 per child/\$15 per additional sibling (includes lunch)

Registration Forms available in backpacks, church lobby and by email

Have the morning off or get some shopping done while your kids make crafts, play games, watch a Christmas movie and have a pizza lunch!

## CAROLS, COOKIES AND COCOA – THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

5:30 PM – 7:30 pm

A *horse-drawn wagon* will pull us through the neighborhood as we carol along!

We will return for cookies and cocoa!

## ADVENT CRAFTS - FIRST THREE SUNDAYS IN DECEMBER

9:45 AM

Marilyn Peatman will lead all the children in Bible Basics at 9:45 AM in crafts and Bible stories.

## ADVENT CANTATA WITH OPP PRE-K CHILDREN – SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

11:00 AM in Sanctuary

Come worship with us as the adult choir sings the Advent Cantata joined by the voices of the OPC children and OPP Pre-K children. Refreshments to follow the service.

## CHRISTMAS EVE – CANDLELIGHT SERVICE – 5:00 PM

## CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE – 11:00 AM – ACOUSTIC CHRISTMAS MUSIC

MORE INFORMATION: Email [children@opcbrookhaven.org](mailto:children@opcbrookhaven.org) or call Amy Cate at 404-376-9813

**Taize Worship Service, Thursday,  
December 8th at 7:00 PM**

During the month of December, many of us may feel stressed and overwhelmed with everything we must do to prepare for Christmas. We need time to reflect and meditate during this Advent season. Please join us for a special Taize worship service on Thursday, December 8th at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Taizé is a meditative prayer service that incorporates simple,



repetitive song and chant, scripture readings, communion, and a period of group silence in a setting of peace and soft light that fosters communion with God. Taizé Prayer is an ecumenical form of prayer meant to foster reconciliation and peace among all people.

**Volunteers needed for  
Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Day**

We are looking for people who are planning on being in town on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day and plan to be in worship who would volunteer to serve in worship. If you plan to be present and are willing to serve as an usher, greeter, counter or to work the PowerPoint or sound, please contact Cheryl in the office. We will also need elders to serve communion Christmas Eve.

Thank you for serving your church and our ministry together.

**Oglethorpe Presbyterian Church  
Children's Christian Ed: 9:45 am Worship 11 am  
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