



December 2025

Sunday School 9:00 am

Worship 10:30 am

Advent season is here! And now comes that time when we, as faithful Christians, return to those old familiar passages of scripture that ring true for us every year with the joy of the birth of our Savior. I, myself, have been reading John chapter 1. Of the four gospel writers, John certainly summarizes the birth of Jesus in the most unique way. John 1:14 - "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." What stands out in that statement, like a shining star over Bethlehem, is the word "WORD". Why does John call Jesus the "Word"? He could have called him something else, right? He could have said, "The Truth became flesh", "The Way became flesh", or "The Son became Flesh." He could have even dropped the poetry and just spoken plainly by saying "God became flesh," but he didn't. Instead, John called Jesus the "Word". Why? I don't have time for a sermon in this short paragraph, but let me offer two quick reasons. First, John calls Jesus the Word because Jesus is the fulfillment of God's word. All of the scriptures have been pointing to Jesus, even since the Garden of Eden when God threatened the snake. God's covenant with Abraham was pointing to Jesus. Jacob's wrestling with God was pointing to Jesus. Moses' bronze serpent was pointing to Jesus. The Ark of the Covenant? —> Jesus! David and Goliath? —> Jesus. Isaiah's suffering servant? —> Jesus! Jonah in the belly of a whale? —> Jesus! The fourth person walking around in Nebuchadnezzar's fiery furnace? —> Jesus! You get the picture. Jesus is THE Word, because he is the fulfillment of God's word. Secondly, John calls Jesus the Word, because what Jesus brings to us is the Good News, the gospel, which is the best word from God we can ever receive. So, this Christmas season, as you ponder the birth of our Savior, by all means consider the crying baby in a manger; dwell upon the words of the Angels, marvel at the gifts of the wise men, but don't forget to thank God for the Word that became flesh.

Merry Christmas, everyone!

-Pastor John

# Church Happenings

## Mens Bible Study

Men's Bible Study is on Thursday evenings at 7 pm. The men are studying the book of Acts. Acts is the fifth book of the New Testament, and it tells of the founding of the Church and the spread of its message.

## MEN'S BREAKFAST



DECEMBER 6TH

8AM - 10AM



KEITH LOVERN'S HOME

RSVP IN THE NARTHEX

## Cookies & Carols

DECEMBER 7, 2025 | 6PM





# Faith Youth Progressive Dinner



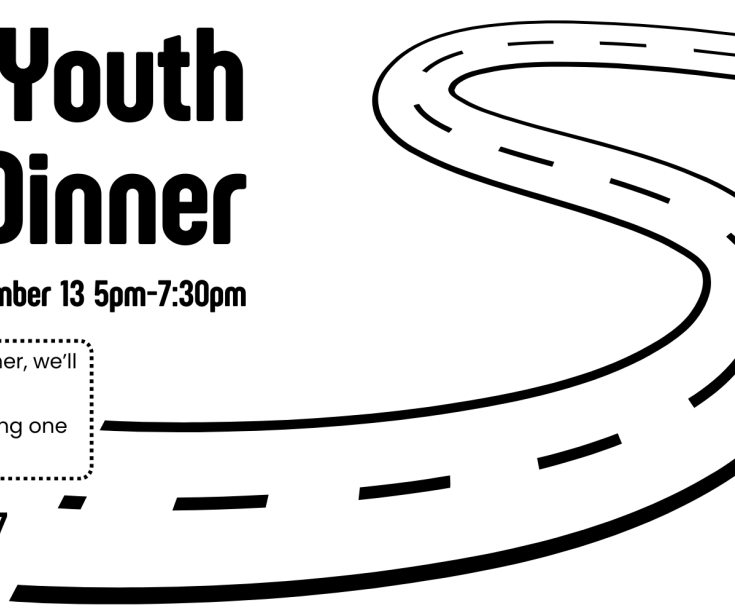
December 13 5pm-7:30pm

The group will visit different locations and enjoy appetizers first, then dinner, we'll end our evening with dessert at the church.

We will also have a White Elephant Gift Exchange! Each youth please bring one wrapped gift, not worth more than \$10.

**Please RSVP to John (352-777-0773) by 12/7**

We will have drivers available to transport youth, parents are welcome to attend and drive their families separately.



# NEW

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 14, 2025**

AFTER WORSHIP SERVICE

# MEMBERS

# CLASS

## CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLE LIGHT SERVICE

December 24<sup>th</sup> | 5pm





# Ladies Bible Study

Ladies Bible study groups will  
begin in January, 2026.

Details will be announced in the coming weeks, stay tuned!

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## Mission of the Month



Helping In His Name  
Ministries Inc

In December, our church family will be collecting non-perishable food items for the Helping In His Name food pantry. Helping In His Name Ministries Inc (aka, The Food Pantry) is an inter-denominational Christian organization and one of the largest faith-based food assistance ministries in Henry County, Georgia.

Their mission to provide food to families and individuals in need is carried out by a small number of staff and a large group of volunteers, and by using donated food and money. The food and care their guests receive here are done as an inspirational model of the love and compassion of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

They have requested boxed cereal, breakfast items, canned ravioli, spaghetti-o's, ramen noodles, Vienna sausages, canned meat, peanut butter, jelly, canned soup, and crackers. Items can be placed in the donation box at the back of the sanctuary.

**Don't Forget!**

**Gifts from last month's mission are due by 12/14!**



# Prayer Requests & Praises



## **Prayer Requests from our Congregation**

Sandy Jo - Knee Surgery (December 17)

Faith Strickland - Chemotherapy

Don Wilson - Peace at end of life

Danny Williamson - Terminal Cancer with infusions

Jean (friend of Sandy Jo) - Metastasized breast cancer

Carol - Lost mother, father, & husband recently

Diana - Esophageal & stomach cancer

Tracey - Son's Job, future relationship

Steve - Sydney & Laney, their futures

Joy Cook - Healing & Comfort

Our Elders

Our Deacons

Our Church Volunteers

The Lost Souls of our World



Philippians 4:6



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

# Prayer Requests from our Biscuit Giveaway

- Kierra
- Bo & Gibb
- Roshel - Protection & guidance
- Lynette & Gabriel - Loss of cousin
- Kingston - exams
- Bao - For brothers to come back to the Lord
- Bridget - Safe travels
- France - Family unity
- Chase - Safe travels
- Arlelanna - Mental health and growth in God
- Anderson Family - Protection
- Parker Family
- Pablo - safety in work (roofing)
- Brandon & Ziear - Business
- Paxton & Jennifer - Healing from cancer (Jennifer)
- Zonia - Family
- Tanya & Vision - Son non-verbal (two years old)
- Eugene - Family
- Tiffany - Health & stress management
- Juan & Maria - New baby
- Margaret - Need of home, family
- Anna - Work & children
- Lanea - Work
- Linda, Tory & Kayla - Relationship with father
- Kenya & Logan
- Jason - Work, family health
- Lonzo & Kenzo
- Stefan, Asia & Blessing
- Joshua
- Keishah & Raheem - Raheem, safety in Marines
- Jean - Client experienced miscarriage
- Evanne - Lost job
- Theresa - Rent & Bills
- Garth - Autistic, health troubles wanting answers
- Erin - Sons in school
- Camille - Grandmother fell, healing
- Chris - Between jobs
- Kayla - Confidence and finding good friends
- Hank - Clarity in payments
- Aisha - Relationships
- Michelle - In need of job
- Patty - In need of job
- Arron - Health, continued strep throat
- Gregory & Rashaw
- Tim
- Thaddeus - Strength in relationships
- Elijah



# DECEMBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 7pm Men's Bible Study	5	6 8am Men's Breakfast
7 Communion 9am Sunday School 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship  6pm Cookies & Carols	8	9	10	11 7pm Men's Bible Study	12	13 5pm Youth Progressive Dinner
14 9am Sunday School 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship  New Member Class (after worship)  Neighbor in Need Gifts Due	15	16	17	18 7pm Men's Bible Study	19 8am - 8pm Prayer Vigil	20
21 9am Sunday School 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship	22	23	24 5pm Christmas Candlelight Service	25 	26	27
28 9am Sunday School 10am Fellowship 10:30 Worship  6pm Thanksgiving Diner	29	30	31			



# Session News

The November Session meeting was held on November 3 at the church at 5:30 pm. For the devotion, the Session read and discussed Chapter 14 of the Westminster Confession.

The Session then discussed using All Give for collecting online tithes and donations, which would allow the church to keep 100% of all online donations without losing any portion to processing or subscription fees. The Session will contact the church's finance administrator, Brooke Echols, about setting up the church's account. Teaching Elder John Cleveland then updated the Session on the congregation's efforts to support Wilson Station EPC's holiday meal bag ministry. A motion was made to combine a portion of the funds from the emergency community needs of the Faith EPC budget together with the congregation's contribution to fully support the ministry for the 2025 holiday season. The Session also considered a request from Full Gospel Assembly to use Faith EPC's building for their weekly worship services and other annual events. A decision was postponed until additional information could be gathered. Nominations for the offices of elder and deacon were then presented and initially discussed. Discussions will continue at the December Session meeting. Lastly, the Session reviewed the first page of the updated church bylaws drafted by Teaching Elder John Cleveland. Further additions and revisions to the bylaws will be reviewed at future meetings as those pages are completed.

Specific prayer needs were discussed and lifted to God.  
The date for the December regular Session meeting has been scheduled for December 1.

John Cleveland, Moderator  
Jeremy Evans, Clerk  
Gregg Coniglio  
Keith Lovern  
Andy Martin

## November Financials

Loan balance 589,420.72  
November income 44,070  
November POP 1,146

November expenses 35,682.82



# Missionary Update

Gary & Jackie, Serving in Columbia

**Trauma Healing Group in Panama with the Chinese and Hispanic Youth.** It was a great challenge and a wake-up call for a shame and honor-oriented culture. In one of the sessions, we had time to pour out our pain, shame, and sin at the foot of the cross. During the time when they drew timelines of their life stories, they were also able to see how God has used suffering in their lives. Thank God for the Gospel! As the youth compared what God says in His Word with their culture, they became more open to participating and opening their hearts in the small groups, and some in the larger group. Six Hispanic youth, five pastoral couples, and twenty-nine young people of Chinese descent born in Panama attended.

Initial Training and Equipping with The Cordoba Cluster from Compassion International. We were invited to train leaders from the state of Cordoba Cluster of Compassion International in the trauma healing program, for their own well-being and to facilitate healing groups in their communities. Praise God, they now have 37 apprentice facilitators in 12 different churches.



Their goal will be to facilitate healing groups in their own churches and for other national leaders, to prepare them for training in the versions of the trauma healing program designed for children and youth. So, now we've begun a new cycle: mentoring these new facilitators on this exciting journey. Group lessons use art, stories, activities, and discussion questions to help people engage deeply with God, themselves, and with each other. Seventeen of this group of apprentice facilitators will be mentored by Jackie as they begin leading healing groups in their churches.

Six of them plan to start their groups in November, and Jackie will meet with them virtually twice a month. The other 18 leaders will be mentored by Adriana, our partner in ministry in Colombia. Thanks to our Lord Jesus, we had a time of prayer retreat to examine our hearts before Him and bring to our whole selves, with hurts and burdens concerning our family's unexpected, sad circumstances and the death of one of Jackie's best friends. The place where we had the retreat had several prayer gardens and a small chapel. Answered prayer! We are very grateful to God that Gary and I have been able to connect with a group learning English in our local church in Armenia, mostly young students. Also, the Lord has allowed us to meet this married couple of leaders: Pollo and Ana Maria, who have entered our hearts as dear friends and who are helping us in many capacities. They are checking on our apartment in Colombia until we return in early December.



### **What are we doing here in the USA?**

Our furlough is focused on re-vision and re-structure our lives in communion with Jesus; reconnecting with our friends and partners in ministry, taking care of the property here, and especially getting the rest we need. This is very important for recovering from the ongoing exposure to trauma in our ministry.

Gary: The Lord has been so kind to allow me to reconnect with one of my childhood passions in Colombia, which is not only helping me connect in our new location but also throughout Colombia. It's called Ham Radio, and I've made friends in several locations across Colombia. It allows me to share much about our work, which leads to opportunities to share Christ. My equipment in Colombia is pretty basic, but I'm very thankful that, with VOIP technology, I can remotely access my station in the US. In the picture, I'm working with Faber trying to set up a remote connection for our ham radio club in Colombia.

Jackie: continues to have a monthly meeting with her closest support group. Her last virtual meeting will be about the last session of the series, Strength from Weakness (November 4), with the theme: "Fulfilling your purpose in life." This 9-lesson workshop is being presented to the Colombian Community of Practice group, which brings together apprentices and facilitators who are being mentored and continuing to grow in the trauma healing ministry.



Ministry Opportunities, please also join us in prayer for:

- The new group of apprentice facilitators from Compassion International in Cordoba, for their growth in grace and wisdom in the starting process of forming small groups in their communities.
- Our journey of discernment amid Jackie's mother's mental health situation and the unresolved issues following Gary's mother's death, wrapping up things here, and a safe return to Colombia.
- Update: The first Advanced Equipping Training in our community was rescheduled from August 7-10 of this year to the first week of February 2026 in Sincelejo.

It is a privilege for us to accompany you, our team, in prayer. Please don't hesitate to send us how we can support you in prayer.

Thank you for your loving partnership in this ministry of bringing the Gospel of grace to leaders and missionaries who need emotional healing and restoration. These will, in turn, be channels for proclaiming the Gospel of restoration in their churches and communities, where trauma from cycles of violence and loss has broken hearts and divided families.

Under His wings of grace,  
Gary and Jackie Burnett

