



## ...on the River

**No man ever steps in the same river twice.**  
*Heraclitus*

**Life is in a constant state of flux.** And yet, people are so troubled and resistant to change. We long for things to be as they were and project our memory of things past onto the present—usually with disastrous results. For many, what *once was* takes on an importance that quickly overshadows one's ability to embrace *what is*. And that is a true pity. Because every moment, replete with persistent change and variation, is a unique gift from God. Do we really wish to reject the endless parade of God's generosity in favor of a few preferred gifts?

On Saturday, at 5 pm, we will gather at the riverside home of Ron and Susan Gilbert for what we are calling *Worship on the River*. We did something like this a few years ago, but of course, every gathering of God's people is unique. Those who are there will be blessed by the unique encounter we have with God and each other. And just like the river that flows by their lovely home, the gathering will be a gift that can only be embraced in the moment. I hope you are there to enjoy the present God will share with us that day.

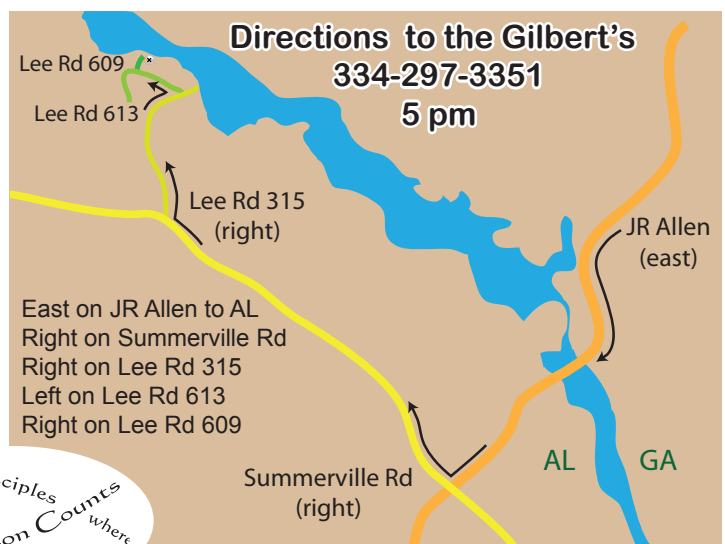
Life is like a tapestry with countless threads woven together, each one unique. And yet, the beauty of any textile is not in the individual fibers, but in how they come together to form something greater, more beautiful, and useful than any single thread. It is that way with the church. We are like a quilt—a patchwork of lives with great variety and differing desires. Nevertheless, when we come

together, we are warmed by the union; and we find that we are something more than when we are apart.

I marvel at the countless water references in the Bible. In the opening verses of Genesis we find the Spirit of God moving over the face of the waters. The final chapter of Revelation is all about the *River of Life* that flows from the throne of God. In between, God sends a destructive flood, parts the Red Sea, and water becomes the sign of entry into the Christian faith.

There is something very special about water—so special that life is not possible without it. But we understand what Heraclitus was saying about not stepping in the same river twice. It may look the same. It may feel the same. It may even smell the same. But the water you stepped in even moments ago has since moved down stream. This is the way with life—it stands still for no one. That is the reason it is so essential we embrace each moment God has given us. It will never come again.

Regardless of how much time we spend reflecting on the past or planning for the future, life essentially boils down to what we do in a succession of present moments. Whether we act or not, the river flows. If we apologize and ask forgiveness or hold a grudge and writhe inside, the river flows. Should we go out of our way to perform an act of kindness, or ignore the needs of others and focus only on ourselves, the river flows. We can come together to praise God and celebrate the wonderful life we have received or we can simply go through life and rarely think about the one who sends the water. Either way the river will continually flow. As for me and my family, we prefer knowing the one who sends the water and thanking him every chance we get.



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### **NOVEMBER VOLUNTEERS FOR:**

Kitchen	Gail McNair
Sanctuary	Shirley Williams
Ushers	Ben Ramsey & Larry Mills (CC); Tammy Mills; Serena Mills; Taylor Mills; Charlie Wike
Visitor Greeter	Walter Nesbitt

### **SERVING EPC WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6**

Children's Church	Cheryl Betts
Communion	C. & B. Wells; K. Rhodes-Reynolds; Mills; McLaughlin; Hartline; Roark; Gilbert
Counters	Gail McNair; Rita Irons
Elder Prayer Partner	Sarah Pope
Greeters	Marge Welker; Bob Wells
Greeting Cards	Marge Welker
Lay Reader	Mac Johnson
Nursery	Sheryl Wright
Security	Walter Nesbitt
Sound	Nick McNair

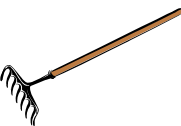
### **EVANGELISM**

#### **Last Sunday's Attendance at EPC**

Worship: 97    Sunday School: 32  
Visitors at EPC: In town: 3    Out of town: 2

### **EPC'S BUILDING AND GROUNDS TEAM NEEDS YOU SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5.**

**We will be working here from 8:00 am until noon doing some repairs and upkeep. Please contact Larry Mills or Chris Posey if you can help out (for any length of time within those hours.)**



### **UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES**

#### **Saturday, November 5**

8:00 am    Grounds-Upkeep-Repairs at EPC until noon  
5:00 pm    Worship on the River—Gilberts' home

#### **Sunday, November 6—Daylight Savings Time ends**

9:30 am    Sunday School  
10:30 am    Fellowship Time  
11:00 am    Worship—Holy Communion  
Prayer in Parlor with elders  
Lunch after Church—Olive Garden, Whittlesey Blvd.  
4:00 pm    Youth Group to Edgewood UMC for volleyball

#### **Monday, November 7**

6:30 pm    Life Group Mtg. at Coats' home

#### **Tuesday, November 8**

10:00 am    Psalms Bible Study  
2:00 pm    2/2/Tu Book Club  
7:00 pm    Boy Scouts

#### **Wednesday, November 9**

10:00 am    Crafty Crew in Education Center, Room 4  
5:15 pm    Joyful Ringers  
6:00 pm    Adult Bell Choir  
6:00 pm    Tai Chi Class in Fellowship Hall, stage area  
7:00 pm    Chancel Choir Rehearsal

*Please note that the Church Office is closed each Friday.*

### **SUNDAY MORNING, NOVEMBER 6, 2011**

**THE POTTER AND THE CLAY**, a short skit by Don Blackley, will be presented this Sunday morning during the worship service. The humorous dialogue between the potter and the clay illustrates Jeremiah 18:1-6: *The Lord said: O Israel, can't I do to you as this potter has done to his clay? As the clay is in the potter's hand, so are you in my hand."*



### **STEWARDSHIP SEASON**

This past Sunday the Minute for Mission for Stewardship Season was presented by Bill Massey who talked about the Holy Rollers project. Six or seven wheelchair ramps have been built for community residents who are wheelchair dependent. Plans are to resume this effort in November. Mission funds are used to finance this effort.

If you can help with the construction, please e-mail Bill or the church office. As Pastor Paul emphasized, this is a great opportunity to really make a difference in someone's life. The recipients are very appreciative. This is one act of service that is personal and extremely rewarding.

There are many opportunities for service to the church and the community listed on the Opportunities List that you should have already received. These were mailed last week, but if you have not yet received one, please call the Church Office and one will be mailed to you or you may pick one up from the credenza in the narthex on Sunday.

Please carefully consider your time and money gifts to the church and to our missions. Dedication Sunday is November 13.

## FELLOWSHIP

**LUNCH AFTER CHURCH** on Sunday, October 30, is at Mongo's, Veterans Parkway, and you are invited to join us (Dutch treat). Please sign the notebook on the credenza in the narthex before worship for a seating count.

**LIVELY ONES PREPARING FOR SANTA!** The Lively Ones meet November 3rd, 10:30 am. Please bring your gifts soon for Santa Express, the annual collection of gifts for elderly residents of Presbyterian Homes. Their list was in Sunday's bulletin or call the office for a copy. Miranda Jones will give the devotional and David Slonaker will present a short program on "Mental Health: Who Needs It?" Lunch follows at Caffè Amici. Join us; we would love to see you in our "lively" group.

## WORSHIP

### 11 WEEK SERMON SERIES

- Nov. 6 *We're Not Gods*  
Exodus 20:1-3; Acts 15:1-21
- Nov. 13 *A Spirit-led Journey*  
Matthew 4:1-4; Acts 16:6-15

### SANCTUARY FLOWERS

The flowers this Sunday are given by Martha Jane Roark; and Wendell, Allison and Hannah Grainger. They are in celebration of Katherine Roark's birthday and in honor of today being Retired Educators Day in Georgia.

### Advent Devotional Scripture/Dates Available Still to Choose from.....

Monday, Nov. 28 – Luke 20:1-8  
Wednesday, Nov. 30 – Luke 20: 9-18  
Friday, Dec. 2 – Luke 20:19-26  
Saturday, Dec. 3 – Isaiah 2:12-22  
Monday, Dec. 5 – Isaiah 3:8-15  
Tuesday, Dec. 6 – Luke 20:41-21:4  
Friday, Dec. 9 – Isaiah 5:8-12  
Sunday, Dec. 11 – Isaiah 7:1-9  
Monday, Dec. 12 – Isaiah 7:13-17  
Wednesday, Dec. 14 – Isaiah 10:20-27  
Saturday, Dec. 24 – Luke 1:67-80  
Sunday, Dec. 25 – Luke 2:1-20

Are you working on your devotional? Remember 300 words or less with a short prayer due to Cheryl Betts by Sunday, **November 13th.**

Call if you want a particular date or have questions—706-575-1964.

## YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### Friday, November 4

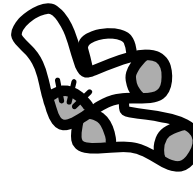
Kids Night In/Parents Night Out, 6-8 pm

#### Sunday, November 6

MH/HS Youth go to Edgewood UMC for volleyball, 4-5:30 pm

#### Sunday, November 13

Deadline for Devotionals to Cheryl



### CHILDREN & YOUTH CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Help us clothe children and youth in need by bringing NEW socks, gloves/mittens, hats and scarves that we can decorate Christmas Trees in Fellowship Hall. Let's see if we can fill the trees and provide warm socks, glove/mittens or hats and scarves for those less fortunate. Collections can be brought to church starting now through December 11th. Place your items on the credenza in the sanctuary narthex. (Cheryl will pick up your items from the credenza.)

### PARENTS—GRANDPARENTS— AUNTS & UNCLES

Would you be interested in hearing someone from Crime Prevention speak on how parents can assure safety for their children and youth on the Internet? This is something to think about as you may be considering purchasing a computer or cell phone for your child/youth for Christmas. We want to keep our young people safe and secure.

**If you are interested, please email or call Cheryl and a program will be scheduled.**





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one hour on  
November 6



**HAPPY NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY TO:**

Katherine Roark 9  
Glenn Wells 11  
Jack Summers 12

**CONGRATULATIONS....**

*Congratulations to Neil and Sarah Penttila on the birth of a son, Liam Edward Penttila, born September 4, 2011, at 6:44 am; 8 lb, 8 oz; 20 3/4 inches.  
And to Ann Marie (Wells) and Buddy Kelly on the birth of a daughter, Katelyn Grace Kelly, born October 28, 2011, at 4:22 pm; 6 lbs., 14 oz; 21 inches.*

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR CHURCH FAMILY**

Mark Blackwell Susan Knight Lillie Register  
Rachel Flournoy Bob & Julie Ligon Pete Sanders-Nesbitt  
Sue Hearn Janie McClerkin Rae Taylor  
Ann Pratcher

**Covenant Woods:** Eva Lucille Roberts, PC 227  
**Gardens at Calvary:** Lee Cook, Apt. 321  
**Magnolia Manor:** Lillian McLeod, 24  
**Morningside Asst'd Living:** Bob Gedroic, Room 142;  
David Anastasia, Room 108  
**Muscogee Manor:** Lillie Register, East Wing 25B  
**The Veranda:** Bette Schroeter, Room 205

**PRAYER REQUESTS FOR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES**

Preston Wetherell (Wetherell's grandson) in pneumonia recovery  
Charles Smith (Roark/Grainger relative) deployed to Afghanistan  
Nita Butler (Pat Kinar's sister) surgery  
Don Morrow (Ligon's friend) difficult recovery after surgery  
Tina Singleton (Ligon's friend) unknown cause of illness  
Lacy Dixon (Mary Adams' granddaug.) pregnancy complications  
Reese Stansfield (6 mos. old baby girl with brain cancer)  
Dorothy Cupples (Bob Ligon's sister) heart condition  
Ron Weller (Ligon's friend) stroke rehabilitation  
Jackie Jernigan (Tammy Mills' friend) widespread cancer  
Kathy Windham (EPC Financial Secretary) seizures  
Cathy Cushman (Jed Robbins' Mom) cancer & Lyme disease  
Kay Fouts (former member)  
Tracy Connor (friend of Joneses & Marge Welker) cancer  
Miranda Erwin (daughter of Walter & Shirley Williams)  
Al McCullough (Pete Sanders-Nesbitt's Dad) cancer  
Bradley Brooks (Gigi Lennon's friend's toddler) seizures  
Joe Jones (Marge Welker's friend)  
Robert McCart (Frances Long's brother) throat cancer  
Bill Blakely, recovering from stroke  
Bobbie Marbut (former member)  
Sue Poore (Janie McClerkin's sister)

# Christmas SOC

## Serving Our Community

Muscogee County has 14 elderly people who are all in dire situations. These six men and eight women are under the guardianship of Mr. Grooms of the Division of Aging Services. We would like to make this Christmas special for these dear people by decorating shoe boxes and filling them with small items that would be useful and special. Mr. Grooms has made a list of specific items each person could use. He visits each client monthly, and will be happy to deliver our gifts for us.

How can you help?

- Send in shoeboxes to be filled. (Wrap your box if you wish.) We need 14.
- Bring items to place in shoeboxes to church and place in the **Christmas SOC** box in the entrance to the Life Center. Items needed include: socks, toiletries, snacks and other items/treats an elderly person could use.
- Shop for special items requested by Mr. Grooms. They are as follows:

Pedro	-	male	twin blanket or throw
Mickey	-	male	shoes size 7 ½, medium shirt
Ronald	-	male	classic TV show DVD's
Carl	-	male	medium shirt, socks
Robert	-	male	tennis shoes size 11, large shirt, candy bars
Jerry	-	male	jazz music CD's, large shirt, socks
Lavada	-	female	kid's clothing size 10 or kids XL, socks
Andy	-	female	movie tickets
Gloria	-	female	twin blanket or throw
Ethel	-	female	twin blanket or throw
Delores	-	female	small pajamas
Shirley	-	female	blanket or throw, stuffed animals
- Instead of bringing items, give money to help purchase gifts, and we will purchase items on the list. Please be sure to clearly mark your check to EPC for "Christmas SOC" so that the money will be set aside for this purpose specifically.

We would like to have all boxes wrapped and filled by Sunday, December 4. Let's work together to make Christmas special for these Wards of the State in our area.

If you have other questions, please call Susan Gilbert or Tiffany Ingram. *Thank you for your help, EPC.*



## **IMPORTANT Newsletter Change**

Beginning in January, 2012, the EPC newsletter, "Edgewood News," will no longer be routinely mailed to our members, friends, and former members. The newsletter is already available on-line, but this on-line access will become the primary means of distribution.

Church members who do not have internet access may continue to receive a printed copy of the newsletter. Those who do not have access to the internet should contact the church office so that a printed copy may be mailed.

Those with listed e-mail addresses will receive a weekly e-mail announcing that the newsletter is ready for viewing on our website. A link to the newsletter will be in the e-mail so it can be brought up without any further steps. If you have internet access but your e-mail address is not listed in the directory, please call or e-mail the church office so that you may receive this weekly e-mail alert.

Former members and friends who receive the newsletter—please contact the church office so that your e-mail address can be added to those receiving the notice that the newsletter is ready. The newsletter can easily be accessed, however, at any time without the e-mail alert, on our website. The link is being updated and the new link will appear in the newsletter as soon as possible.

As you probably know, our church is facing a serious financial challenge, and we are making every effort to implement cost-cutting measures. Not mailing the newsletter to most people will save money on paper, copier costs (our contract is based on a per-copy fee) and hopefully a small savings in postage. Because we are using bulk mail rates for the newsletter, and will need to use regular postage for the newsletters we do mail, the savings will not be huge. Every dollar matters, however, and we need to be good stewards of our resources.

The session approved this change in October, and it was presented for consideration by the Stewardship Team.

There will probably be some fine-tuning required in this transition. Please contact the church office with your suggestions. These can then be routed to the proper person.

Kathy Mewbourne, Stewardship Team