

THE BULLETIN

Vol. 1

December 17, 2023

No. 25

Worship God
Grow in Christ

Build Community
Bless the World



CAIRO FIRST CHURCH

(1867-2023) – Celebrating Our 156th Year

318 South Broad Street • Cairo, Georgia 39828-2717

Rev. Sam Vernon, Pastor

☎ Church Office: 229-377-3051 @ www.cairofumc.org ✉ adm.cairofum@syrupcity.net

📘 Cairo First Church ☎ Upper Room Prayer Line 1-800-251-2468



CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

One of my favorite things about Christmas is the Lights. Even as a little kid, I enjoyed riding around with my parents to look at the Christmas Lights. I love our downtown Cairo lights on Broad Street! I love the Christmas lights at Callaway Gardens! I love the lights on our Church's Christmas tree in the sanctuary! I love that big ol' illuminated Cross at the Family Worship Center here in Cairo!

I could go on but you get the point. I certainly love the lights on the 2 trees in our home, the Nativity Tree and our Family Tree. So the other night, I was the last one at my house to go to sleep. I had turned all the other lights out except for the Christmas tree lights. I had forgotten just how much more beautiful the lights were against a background of complete darkness.

Thanks to God for Christmas Lights! Thanks to God for the Light of Jesus Christ now and forever!

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it." (John 1:1-5)

Merry Christmas!

In Christ

Sam

ALTAR FLOWERS:

The flowers on the altar today are placed there by Mrs. Joye Sandefur and family in loving memory of **MR. KEITH SANDEFUR.**

MEMORIAL GIFTS:

Memorials have been given to the church in loving memory of

MRS. EVELYN MAXWELL

By: Mrs. Carolyn Trawick

MR. WAYNE PITCHFORD

By: Mr. Wade Hunziker
Mrs. Carolyn Trawick

PRESCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:

Is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, at 6:30 pm in the sanctuary.

CHRISTMAS EVE COMMUNION

5:00 PM:

Join us for this special service. Ed Self, Brian and Stacey Morgan will do the music.

After Rev. Vernon preaches, we will serve communion using the small individual cups. Weather permitting, we will finish outside with candlelight and singing "Silent Night".

DECEMBER 31:

Only one (1) service at 11:00 am. Rev. Allen Hartsfield will preach.

HANDOUTS AVAILABLE

PRAYERS SHEETS:

From the Advent Prayer Event are available on front pew and also on table across from Pastor's office.

December Calendars are also available.

CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE:

Office closed December 25, 26 for Christmas.

Office also closed January 1 for New Year's Day.

NO MAILED BULLETINS THE WEEK FOLLOWING CHRISTMAS:

Bulletins for the December 31 service will be available at the Church only. We will resume mailing bulletins the first week of January.

ADVENT:

The word Advent means "the coming".

The Advent Season is the four weeks before Christmas. During Advent, Christians celebrate the original "coming" of Christ when He was born some 2000 years ago in Bethlehem.

One of the ways we celebrate Advent in the church is with the Advent wreath and candles.

*The **Advent wreath** is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as Christmas approaches.

*The **circular** green wreath symbolizes the everlasting love of God, having no beginning and no end. **Green** represents eternal life.

*The **4 candles** represent the 4 weeks of Advent.

***Purple** in ancient times was expensive, and was considered the color of royalty and Kings. Christians proclaim Christ as the "King of Kings".

*The 3 purple candles represent **HOPE, PEACE** and **LOVE**.

*The pink candle represents **JOY**.

*The large white candle in the center is the **Christ candle**.

*The beauty and brightness from the glow of all 5 candles is a reminder that Christ's life was the **light for all of earth's people**.

DECEMBER/JANUARY

UPCOMING DATES

TO PUT ON YOUR CALENDAR:

December 19 - 6:30 pm - Preschool Christmas Program

December 24 - 5:00 pm - Christmas Eve Communion

January 21 (Sunday) - 2024 Leadership Installation

January 22 (Monday) - 6:00 pm First Laity Council Meeting for 2024

January 27 (Saturday) - Leadership Retreat



Week of **Dec 17-23**
2023



Remember in Prayer

OUR KNOWN ILL: (AS OF TUESDAY)

Sunday, December 17:

8:15 am Early Worship

9:00 am † Contemporary Worship

10:00 am Sunday School

11:00 am † Traditional Worship

Monday, December 18:

No Activities

Tuesday, December 19:

8:00 am Men's Prayer Group

10:00 am Ladies' Prayer Group

6:30 pm Preschool
Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 20:

No Activities

Thursday, December 21:

8:30 am Service on CNS Channel 6

Friday, December 22:

2:00 pm Service on CNS Channel 6

9:00 pm Service on CNS Channel 6

† Live streaming

TALLAHASSEE MEMORIAL REHAB:

Mr. Jeb Owens

TALLAHASSEE, FL:

Mr. Ken Stafford (Brother of Charles Stafford)

ARCHBOLD:

Mrs. Faye Miller

Mr. Rusty Wood (Brother of Becky Hopkins)

AT HOME:

Mr. Ray Butler

Mr. David and Mrs. Catherine Elkins

Mrs. Lauren Harrell

Mr. Bob Jones

Mr. Howell McKinnon and Mrs. Eleanor McKinnon

Mr. Julian Rawls

Mrs. Marjorie Taylor

The Church and its ministries, the Church Staff and all Church members.

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED

LIVING RESIDENTS:

MAGNOLIA PLACE:

Mrs. Joan Cassels

Mrs. Dot Moses James

Mrs. Nell Mitchell

Mrs. Janet Murphy

Mr. John Shiver

Mrs. Carolyn Trawick

CAMELLIA GARDENS, THOMASVILLE, GA

Mr. John Summers (Father of Clair McCaskill)

SOUTHERN PINES, THOMASVILLE, GA:

Mrs. Doris Rehberg (Mother of Nell Owens)

THOMASVILLE NURSING & REHAB:

Mrs. Mary Meill

PRESBYTERIAN HOME, QUITMAN, GA:

Mrs. Opal Prince

CHESTNUT RIDGE, CUMMING, GA:

Mrs. Vivian Childs

ATLANTA, GA

Ike & Charlene Powell

BRENTWOOD, TN:

Dr. Bob Kral

AN ACCOUNT OF OUR STEWARDSHIP - 12/10/23

8:15 a.m.10

9:00 a.m.62

11:00 a.m.43

Weekly Receipts\$5,235.00

Received to Date - Op. . \$292,685.00

Memorial/In Honor\$75.00

Missions\$2,720.00

Bucket Brigade\$30.89

BUCKET BRIGADE:

The bucket brigade offerings (loose change in buckets) goes to mission projects that the church sponsors throughout the year. The offering for December will go to the **Backpack Ministry**.

Thanks for your donations. Donations can be made by check designating that it is to go to the bucket brigade offering.



Birthday Greetings

December 17: Crystal Ford

December 18: Dale Helms,
Kennedy Turner, Owen Turner,

December 19: Nick Trull,
Marielle Youmans

December 20: Miriam Funderburk,
Charles Giddens

December 22: Tara Thomas

Sunday December 17, 2023

Traditional Informal – Chapel

8:15 am

*SCRIPTURE LESSON I Timothy 6:6-12
SERMON Christmas In New York City Rev. Vernon

Contemporary – Sanctuary (Livestream)

9:00 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WORSHIP

CHILDREN’S SERMON Celeste Vernon

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

READER: Today this Third Sunday of Advent, we again light the candle of HOPE and the candle of PEACE. For the first time, we light the candle of JOY.

CONGREGATION: The Christmas season for both the World and the Church is full of many things that bring JOY.

READER: As believers, God reminds us to find our JOY in His eternal gifts.

CONGREGATION: The greatest Christmas gift ever was the gift of Jesus Christ! Thanks be to God that we get to enjoy Jesus forever once we put our trust in Him. Amen!

*AFFIRMATION OF GOD’S WORD

**This is God’s Word. I believe I am who He says I am,
I have what He says I have, and I can do what He says I can do.**

*SCRIPTURE I Timothy 6:6-12
SERMON Christmas In New York City Rev. Vernon

THOSE WHO SERVE: 9:00 AM: SS Greeters/Ushers: **Chad Allen, Bill Harrell;**

Worship Team: Brian Morgan - vocals, guitar; Stacey Morgan - vocals, keys;
Myra Easom - vocals; Scott Easom - bass guitar;

Tech: Will Bundrick - video; Miller Kate Morgan - streaming;

Amy and Davis Amaro - audio

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

NEWS FROM...ADRIENNE

email: abharrison1@hotmail.com
text: 229-254-2546

- Acolytes: Reagan Hartsell and Jensyn Drew Morgan
- Buckets: Jemma Hartsell and Ella Jones
- December 17 - Sunday School Ornament Exchange
- December 24 - Nursery for ages 3 and under will be available during the Christmas Eve Service

YOUTH MINISTRY

NEWS FROM...SCOTT

email: easom316@windstream.net
cell/text: (229) 977-2247

- December 17 – Sunday School - 10:00 am

PRELUDEMr. Jeremy Moore

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTSRev. Vernon

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*HYMN OF PRAISENo. 250
Once in Royal David's City

OFFERTORY PRAYERRev. Vernon

OFFERING

OFFERTORYMr. Moore

*DOXOLOGY

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN OF REFLECTIONNo. 245
The First Noel

SPECIAL MUSICMiss Piper Loeffler
Sweet Little Jesus Boy - MacGimsey

*AFFIRMATION OF GOD'S WORD

**This is God's Word. I believe I am who He says I am,
I have what He says I have and I can do what He says I can do.**

*SCRIPTURE LESSONI Timothy 6:6-12

SERMONChristmas In New York CityRev. Vernon

*HYMN OF RESPONSENo. 220
Angels from the Realms of Glory

*BENEDICTIONRev. Vernon

+POSTLUDEMr. Moore

+

+You are dismissed after the Benediction.
Please feel free to leave, or if you choose, sit quietly and enjoy the Postlude.

* Please stand as you are able.

FLOWER CALENDAR:

The flower calendar for 2024 has been placed on the bulletin board in the downstairs hallway.

Please sign up for flowers for 2024. And remember that two arrangements are needed.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES:

If you are not currently attending a Sunday School class, now is a good time to start. There are several options and you would be welcome to visit any or all of the classes.

- Burleigh Law: Mostly couples that have grown children and grandchildren.
- Azalee Wight: Mostly couples, some retired, others still working. Various members rotate teaching
- Pairs and Spares: Mixed group of singles and couples
- New Hope: Adults (45+) with teenage and college age children
- Cephas: Adults (30+) with young children

NEXT WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER:

Will be in January, 2024.

SINNER'S PRAYER

DEAR JESUS,

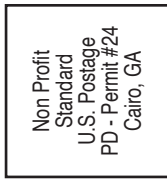
I believe You are the Son of God. Thank you for dying on the cross for my sins 2000 years ago. I confess that I am a sinner. Please forgive me of my sins. Come into my heart and be my Savior and make me into the kind of person You want me to be.

Amen

This is just one example of a prayer that someone could pray to become Christian. For the prayer to be effective it needs to be an honest expression of someone's heart.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER

The next church night suppers will be in January, 2024. Date will be announced later.



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED
 318 S. BROAD STREET
 CAIRO, GA 39828

Directory

- Sam Vernon*Pastor*
 Ruth Sims*Adm. Assistant*
 Scott Easom*Youth Director*
 Adrienne Harrison . .*Children's Director*
 Jeremy Moore*Music Director*
 Ed Self*Organist*
 Brian and Stacey Morgan
*Contemporary Worship Leaders*
 Ashlei Steele*Preschool Director*
 Church Office229-377-3051
 Emergency Numbers .**229-377-1017**
 229-403-0428
 912-230-6627

EMAILS: When sending emails to the church office, please use the following address:

adm.cairofum@syrupcity.net

E-MAILS ADDRESS/CELL PHONE NUMBERS: Contact with church members is very important. Please turn in email addresses and cell phone numbers especially if you no longer use a land line for your telephone. Thanks

Name _____

E-Mail _____

Cell Number _____

Thanks ever so much!