

## ***Volunteer Reminders***

### **GREETERS**

December 3 Carole Barron  
December 10 Steve Turner  
December 17 Emily Johnson  
December 24 Sandra McDonald  
December 31 Paulette Turner  
January 7 Janice Hutton

### **CONTACT VISITORS**

December 3 Carole Barron  
December 10 Steve & Paulette Turner  
December 17 Betty Kiep  
December 24 Jean Moore  
December 31 Mae Todd  
January 7 Carole Barron

### **WORSHIP ASSISTANT**

December 3 Sandra McDonald  
December 10 Stan Crockett  
December 17 Carole Barron  
December 24 Anita Raby  
December 31 Sandra McDonald  
January 7 Stan Crockett

## ***Volunteer Reminders***

### **TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES**

December 3 Anita Raby  
December 10 Tom Lewis  
December 17 Sandra McDonald  
December 24 Betty Kiep  
December 31 Anita Raby  
January 7 Tom Lewis

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dec. 10th at 4:30pm Youth's Christmas Program and Bake sale. After the program we will have our Christmas fellowship. Please bring your favorite snack to share.

If you want to watch our services you should go to YouTube and search for the following address:  
@copelandchurch5413.

Copeland website is [cpc-Athens.com](http://cpc-Athens.com)

# **The Copeland Chimes**

*Seeking, Serving, Sharing Christ*  
December 2023

Copeland Presbyterian Church  
27085 Copeland Rd.  
Athens, AL 35613

### **FROM TOM'S DESK**

As I sit down to write this it is Monday of the week of Thanksgiving. There is a time - honored practice in our culture. It involves making a list of all the things you're thankful for. On my list are the things that you might expect on anyone's list. I'm thankful for friends and family. I'm thankful for my health. I'm thankful for good food. I'm thankful for all of the blessings I've received from God.

However, as I write this, I want to highlight one thing that is very much in the front of my mind. I'm am thankful for each of you. Each of you has blessed me in ways you may not even realize. I thank you for your friendship. I thank you for the support for me and for my family through the years. I don't take the time I should to say thank you often enough. Each of you is a gift from God to me, and I want you to know it.

I hope and pray that each of you will have a blessed Holiday Season.

*Tom*

## **THE GIFT OF CHRIST**

God of hope, help us to focus on you today, remembering that the gift of Christ is the most treasured gift.

We ask you to grant us peace. Peace in our homes, peace in our churches, and peace in our hearts, when the world around us spins out of control.

Help us to stay focused on you, this Christmas and always. Thank you for loving the whole world enough to send the greatest gift, your son. Help us to simplify our activities and traditions so we can focus our celebration on your birth.

Thank you for being the Prince of Peace, and we ask you for your peace to reign in our hearts. Thank you for the simple but life-changing message of your love for us. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

*CAFOD*

The Session asks that we as a congregation engage in prayer now through the end of the year. We ask you to pray for discernment from God for our congregation. Pray for discernment for His plans for us, for what we should be doing in this community, and for how we can "be His people" and show His love to those around us. Pray for yourself asking what God is calling you to do.

## **MISSIONS**

### **Limestone County Churches Involved - LCCI**

Please continue to donate as you can, whether it be food items or monetary, everything is welcome. Some items needed: Each week these items are given out, canned fruit & vegetables, canned chicken & tuna, cereal, diapers, dried beans, instant potatoes & rice, mac & cheese, pancake mix & syrup, peanut butter & jelly, powdered milk, shampoo and bath soap, soups, beef stew & chili, spaghetti & sauce, and tuna helper

Also small size personal hygiene products for the homeless, small size food items with pop tops for the homeless. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate and designated to go to LCCI. Thanks to all who donated school supplies. See Carol Barts for questions.

### **BACKPACK PROJECT**

As we enter December our plans are to give the families a gift card for food to help out during this time. If you want to contribute to this mission, please indicate the amount on your check and Stan will take care of it.

We are still taking individual sized items to the school for their weekend backpacks as well. Please put these items in the closet in the fellowship hall. Thanks to all who support this mission.

See Carole Barron if you have any questions.

## **YOUNG DISCIPLINES**

### **THE REAL STORY PRAYER**

God, I hope that everyone can learn what Christmas is all about. I know people think it's about food, being out of school, getting presents, and having fun, but I know why we have Christmas. Thank You, God, for letting baby Jesus be born so we can go to heaven. Thank you for letting me understand the real story about Christmas. Help me tell my friends who don't understand it all. In Jesus's name. Amen.

**Pastor**

Rev. Tom Lewis

**Session**

**Class of 2023**

Susanne Slaten  
Ed Taylor

**Class of 2024**

Anita Raby  
Sandra McDonald

**Class of 2025**

Carol Barts  
Bill Johnson  
Clerk of Session

**Ministry Team/  
Committee Leaders**

**Building and Grounds**

Ed Taylor

**Children's Mission**

Susanne Slaten

**Christian Education**

Sandra McDonald

**Missions**

Carol Barts

**Outreach/Fellowship**

Susanne Slaten

**Presbyterian Women**

Susanne Slaten

**Scholarship**

Susanne Slaten

**Security Team**

Bill Johnson

**Stephen Ministry**

Cindy Saseen

**Worship**

Anita Raby

**Birthdays**



- December 6 Cindy Saseen**
- December 7 Steve Turner**
- December 9 Melia Collier**
- December 9 Rachel Lewis**
- December 9 Laura Lewis**
- December 12 Bob Phillips**
- December 18 Carol Barts**
- December 18 Erline Phillips**
- December 25 Janice Hutton**

**Anniversaries**



- December 2 Sharon & Chuck Moore**
- December 9 Susanne & Randal Slaten**
- December 30 Melia & Tim Collier**

**STEPHEN MINISTERS**



When you know someone is struggling during the holidays, there are some simple ways to make a difference.

For example: Offer to help in a specific way. Can I help you with Christmas decorations? Remember to follow the person's lead and not just impose your help.

Help someone pace themselves. Holidays can be busy. Let people know it is ok to conserve energy, take breaks and pick only certain activities to participate in.

Ask people how they are really doing. Don't just interact on a surface level. Find a time to ask hurting people how they're really doing and the listen. Listening is a very powerful tool.

Validate feelings. When someone shares their feeling with you, let them know it is ok to feel whatever they are feeling. This can provide a lot of comfort.

Leaders: *Mae Todd, Cindy Saseen, and Susanne Slaten*