



## The Weekly News

February 5, 2025

### Congregational Meeting takes place this Sunday February 9

The Session has called a congregational meeting following worship *this* Sunday, February 9 to vote on Pastors' terms of the call, to receive the 2025 budget, and to elect the 2025 church-wide Nominating Committee. This year, the Nominating Committee is being led by Chair LaShawn Green and Vice-Chair Adam Seeley.

The congregational meeting will not be livestreamed, so we look forward to seeing you in person.

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### Pollard/Covenant Fund event review







Many thanks to all who attended the Lunch and Learn session on Sunday after church sponsored by the Pollard/Covenant Fund Committee and featuring representatives from the Center for Civic Innovation 2024 Fellows Program, one of the Pollard grantees. Their passion for and commitment to the work they do were evident as the 2024 Fellows shared with us information about some of the grassroots organizations that address a variety of issues affecting those on the margins in our city. The list of presenters and the organizations they founded are listed below.

**CCI Staff:** Rohit Malhotra, Executive Director; Felix Rodriguez, Training and Program Manager

**2024 Fellows:**

Maisie Thompson, The Aster Project; Matt Scott, Atlanta Community Press Collective; Sy Moore, Street Angels; Jay Johnson and CJ Jones, Dream Builders of Atlanta; Monique Nunnally, Teach X; Shakeithia Wheeler, Southern Women in Motion Foundation; Keith Lewis, I'm A Father First; Dominique Nixon, Pedal Pushers; Virginia Stanley, Sweet Hearts Inc.

Thanks go to Kathy Harben, Kristie Johns and Melissa Johnson for their help with logistics, Mary Lillian Walker and Gayle and Craig Knight for organizing the lunch details, and Jill Lum and Mark Wallace Maguire for capturing the event on film. A special shout out to the Bliss family and their high school helpers for not only serving during but also resetting Tull Hall after the Courtyard Breakfast. - *Julie Boggs*

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## PC(USA) Celebrates Black History Month

African American Leaders in the PC(USA)

# Shelton Bishop Waters



Born in 1918 in Pittsburgh, PA, Shelton Bishop Waters was named after the priest at the Church of the Holy Cross in Homewood, where his family attended service. Recommended for ministry at a young age, Waters attended Lincoln University and Johnson C. Smith University—his transfer from the Pittsburgh and Lake Erie Railroad to trains headed south from Washington was his first experience of sitting in a segregated train car.

In Charlotte, NC, Waters met students from Presbyterian-run elementary and secondary schools training young people for ministry, industrial, and professional careers. It was his first taste of an all-Black presbytery, and an all-Black synod, and his first time studying under Black faculty. From 1947 to 1969, Waters was pastor of First African Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, leading it into a new church building and hosting Martin Luther King Jr. during his visit to the Presbytery, of which Waters was moderator. In his telling, his role in the presbytery was simply to make clear that it was not a white fraternity: “Now and then in presbytery, somebody would go up and make some kind of a joke that didn’t sound just right. And the time came when I was able to get up and tell them, ‘That’s not the kind of thing you say here.’..the time came when they realized they couldn’t get away with that anymore—within the presbytery.”

From 1969 to 1975, Waters was an associate executive of the Synod of the Trinity, in charge of its grant-making for African American students and for students from Appalachia. He then spent 10 years at Northeastern Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. In retirement, he served two other historically-Black Presbyterian churches in Pennsylvania: Washington Street in Reading, and Thomas M. Thomas Memorial in Chester.



Church work allowed Waters to travel extensively in Latin America and Africa—he led a delegation to Equatorial Guinea shortly after its independence in 1968, and he served on the the UPCUSA Task Force on Southern Africa in 1970 and 1971, where he toured the South Western Townships of Johannesburg.

Waters was a Synod representative at the funeral of Martin Luther King Jr., riding the train through a heavily militarized Washington D.C. down to Atlanta, when finally the reality of King’s absence set in. Reflecting later, Waters said, “We’ve all been changed. I was changed. I was changed suddenly and didn’t realize how great he was until he died,” reminding himself of 2 Samuel 3:38, “Do you not know this day a king has fallen?”

Shelton Bishop Waters died in Rydal Park, PA, March 26, 2013.



Read more about Shelton Bishop Waters on the PHS blog  
[history.pcusa.org/about/blog/african-american-leaders-series](http://history.pcusa.org/about/blog/african-american-leaders-series)



Learn about the AALC Initiative  
[history.pcusa.org/aalc](http://history.pcusa.org/aalc)

Click on the image above to download a PDF.

[Click here for more on Black Presbyterian leaders.](#)



You may give to Central online using this QR code or by going to [cpatlanta.org](http://cpatlanta.org).

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**DEADLINE REMINDER:** As a reminder, our deadlines for the Wednesday e-weekly is Monday at noon. If you have an announcement, please email Hala Hess White at [hhwhite@cpatlanta.org](mailto:hhwhite@cpatlanta.org)

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## Children & Youth

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We are getting ready for Children & Youth Sunday this week and here is your sneak peek at the artwork for the bulletin! The first piece is a collaboration between Sam Sutton and Marshall Dake, highlighting how everyone is invited to the table of God. The second piece is by Bruno Palmer and highlights his interpretation of what a temple space would look like and where the table itself would be for all to enjoy. We're grateful to these brilliant artists for making the theme of Children & Youth Sunday come alive in art: *For everyone born, a place at the table!*





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## Connect

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**Rebekah Circle**  
**Monday, February 10**  
**11 a.m.**  
**Zoom**

The Rebekah Circle will meet Monday, February 10, at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. See link below. Martha Kimes will lead Lesson 5 "*Air Quality*" from the *Bible Study Book "Let Justice Roll Down."* Visitors are welcome. Please direct any questions to Frances St John at [fstjohn210@gmail.com](mailto:fstjohn210@gmail.com).

Join Zoom Meeting  
[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82078900904?  
pwd=uW0JIUtPmFXBhywjO86nDTTMI5Cldj.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82078900904?pwd=uW0JIUtPmFXBhywjO86nDTTMI5Cldj.1)

Meeting ID: 820 7890 0904  
Passcode: 579526

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**Central Women**  
**Thursday, February 20**  
**7:30 to 9:30 p.m.**  
**Home of Karen Gravel**

We will gather Thursday, February 20 at the home of Karen Gravel. All women of Central are welcome. We will meet at 7 p.m. for drinks and appetizers, followed by dinner (7:30) and a program/conversation (8 to 9:30) facilitated by



Karen herself. Karen is a well-established architect with expertise in the restoration, preservation, and rehabilitation of historic buildings and sites. Karen will speak to us about one of the most revered and studied Southern writers, Flannery O'Connor, who spent most of her life in Georgia. Karen will highlight the places Flannery lived in Milledgeville and efforts that have been made to preserve and tell Flannery's story.

Please "sign up" below for food/drink/cash donations as this will be your RSVP. It's very helpful for us to know by Tuesday, February 18 how many people to expect.

Karen's address is 130 Krog Street, NE; Suite D; Atlanta GA 30307. There is a green gate that will be open. Please park anywhere in the parking lot. There are no assigned spaces and parking is free.

See y'all there! Questions? Ask Melanie Bliss at [drdbliss@me.com](mailto:drdbliss@me.com) or Karen Gravel at [Karen.Gravel@jordaecksargent.com](mailto:Karen.Gravel@jordaecksargent.com).

SIGN UP TO RSVP

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**Thirsty Thursdays**  
**Third Thursday of the Month**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Manuel's Tavern**

Central members meet monthly at [Manuel's Tavern](#) for a time of informal fellowship. While this event was initially for Young Professionals, the event is open to all ages. Guests are welcome and no RSVP is required! Manuel's is located at 602 North Highland Avenue Northeast, Atlanta, GA 30307.

Questions? Contact **M.E. Davis** at [maryelizabeth.pope@gmail.com](mailto:maryelizabeth.pope@gmail.com)

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## Serve

Matching gift opportunity begins February  
12 for OAC's annual fundraiser



We hope you will join Central Outreach and Advocacy Center for the In Their Shoes 10 Mile Challenge on March 30 immediately following worship. We are extremely grateful to Bill Huss who donated a remarkable matching gift in honor of his brother John J. Huss, Jr. From February 12 to 19 every donation (up to \$25,000) to Central Outreach and Advocacy Center will be matched.

Even more exciting—your registration for the walk will also be included in the match! That's an opportunity for you to double your impact and make an even greater difference in the lives of those experiencing homelessness. Every dollar you contribute, whether through a direct donation or by participating in this powerful event, will have twice the impact in providing IDs, birth certificates, job training, and housing support to those we serve.

This is your chance to make a real difference. Use the button below to register for the walk or to make a donation and join us in creating pathways to stability and hope!

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER OR DONATE](#)

# 2025 ADVOCACY TRAINING



Experienced policy advocates will teach you effective ways to communicate with legislators. You'll learn to advocate with them about PBG's primary issues: affordable housing, eliminating homelessness, and better access to health care for all. We'll have info as well about particular issues central to this year's legislative session.

**Tuesday, February 11 at 7 p.m.**

Georgia has **11 BILLION tax-payer dollars** stashed away in an undesignated reserve fund. If you're interested in how our elected officials spend that money, you might want to think about attending Presbyterians for a Better Georgia's (PBG) Zoom Advocacy Training session on February 11. You can then use the skill you've gained on PBG Lobby Day at the Capitol on March 11 from 8 a.m. until noon.

[REGISTER FOR ADVOCACY TRAINING](#)

Are you wondering how Georgia came to have **\$11 BILLION** of **UNDESIGNATED** taxpayer dollars in its coffers? According to the Georgia Budget and Policy Institute, a nonprofit dedicated to advancing economic opportunity for all Georgians, the fund was created by systematically under spending tax revenues (income tax, sales tax, and user fees) the state collects from all of us.

What is the impact? Georgia is struggling to fund the Housing Trust Fund that provides assistance to agencies serving unhoused people in our state and considering cutting Housing Vouchers for the supportive housing that a federal court has mandated Georgia provide for unhoused and mentally disadvantaged people. The state has spent \$1 billion for tax cuts that mostly benefit corporations and the extremely wealthy. It seems poised to spend more

on school vouchers for private schools.

This is just a snapshot of what is happening under the Gold Dome. Consider learning more and saying more. A good place to begin is with Presbyterians for a Better Georgia!

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CALLING ALL PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL

**RING  
AROUND**

ADVOCACY DAY TO END THE DEATH PENALTY

**02.12.25**

FOR PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES IN GEORGIA

**THE  
CAPITOL**

## **February 12 is GFADP Day at the Capitol**

Join your voice with other Georgians who oppose the death penalty on February 12 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. This day gives our community the chance to connect directly with state leaders. This day is a great opportunity for both new advocates and seasoned ones to have a real impact on our state's law to protect those with Intellectual Disabilities from death sentencing and executions.

The issue of changing legislation to protect Georgians with Intellectual Disabilities from death sentencing and execution is of critical importance. Current legislation continues to put up nearly insurmountable barriers which results in the execution of people with intellectual disabilities - as witnessed most recently on March

20, 2024, when the state of Georgia executed Willie Pye, a man with an IQ of 68.

### ***RSVP Today for GFADP Day at the Capitol!***

Before the Day at the Capitol, all participants will receive the schedule for the day, documents that explain how to get to Trinity United Methodist Church and the Georgia Capitol, how to advocate for this legislation, how to "work the ropes," as well as encouragement to bring a friend and share widely with your networks.

Register today at [\*\*this link\*\*](#).

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## Brookwood Parish to Make Lunches

The Brookwood Parish plans to make sandwiches for the Bashor Night Shelter on Saturday, February 15 at the home of Mary Lillian Walker (3266 East Wood Valley Rd, Atlanta) at 10:30 a.m. and then go to lunch together at the Chattahoochee Food Works (1235 Chattahoochee Ave, NW 30318). All are welcome. Please RSVP to Mary Lillian via text at 404-229-4526 or by email at [\*\*marylillian1031@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:marylillian1031@gmail.com).



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## Meal needed for March 19

The Bashor Night Shelter is an ecumenical ministry of hospitality to our homeless brothers that has operated since 1980, providing nightly meals and a safe warm place to sleep. The Mission Committee is seeking Central groups to serve on the following date:

- Dinner for 70 men on Wednesday, March 19

If your group is interested or if you have questions about the details, please contact Chris Sciarrone at [\*\*sciarrone.chris@gmail.com\*\*](mailto:sciarrone.chris@gmail.com) or 404-966-0380.



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## Sunday Sign-Ups for collecting friendship pads

We still need assistance collecting friendship pads each week. Collection of the friendship folders is an excellent family activity! Please note the need to move easily in both the sanctuary and balcony. You may sign up by clicking [\*\*this link\*\*](#).

# Worship

Sunday, February 9, 2025

**Psalm 119:137-144 + Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4**

The Rev. Shannon Kershner, Ellie Harbert & Charlie Woodpreaching

## Learn

**Issues in Theology: Shakespeare and Theology**  
**Sundays, February 9, 16, 23, and March 23**  
**Greene Room**  
**9:45 to 10:45 a.m.**



For its first series in the spring term of 2025, starting on February 9, the Issues in Theology class will offer "Shakespeare and Theology." This series will involve discussion of three plays with the following themes:

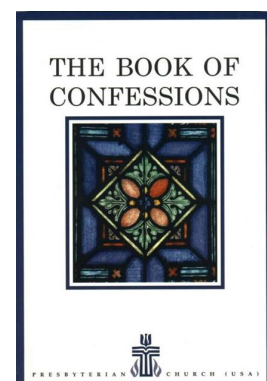
- "Hamlet": The World as Unweeded Garden or Place of Providence
- "Measure for Measure": Public Health and Social Justice
- "The Tempest": Revenge vs. Forgiveness

The class will begin with some introduction on Shakespeare's religious world on February 9 and continue with "Hamlet" on February 16 and 23. The class will then break to join Rev. Kershner's series on "Reformed Confessions," on March 2, 9 and 16. The class will pick back up with the other two plays starting March 23. Discussion class led by Tina Sizemore and actress Kessler Catterall.

Class location: the Greene (off of Tull Hall). Questions? Contact Tina Sizemore ([tinasizemore@bellsouth.net](mailto:tinasizemore@bellsouth.net)).

**Book of Confessions - Our Family Photo Album**  
**Sundays, March 2, 9, 16**  
**The Parlor**  
**9:45 to 10:45 a.m.**

Do you think the Book of Confessions is boring? Did you know we often contradict ourselves? In this special series, taught by Central's Senior Pastor Shannon Kershner, you will discover the family features that are in each confession, and you will learn why this theological work

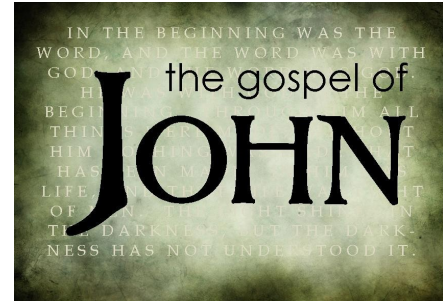


continues to inform who we are as Church. This series will be taught on March 2, 9 and 16.

Class location: The Parlor (off of Tull Hall). Questions? Contact Shanon Kershner ([skershner@cpcatlanta.org](mailto:skershner@cpcatlanta.org)).

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**Central Bible Study: The Gospel of John Begins Sunday, March 23**  
**The Parlor**  
**9:45 to 10:45 a.m.**



Central Bible Study, a new adult Sunday morning class, will meet for the first time on March 23. Central Bible Study will be a traditional Bible study class - what some would describe as "close examination of Scripture." The verse-by-verse approach will mean that we'll often cover, in a given class session, just one chapter of the Scripture book of interest. We'll use the NRSV translation of the Bible. The approach to Scriptural analysis will be critical in nature, and we'll engage in Scriptural interpretation that reflects our Reformed theology. The first book of the Bible that will be explored by the Central Bible Study class will be the Gospel of John.

Class location: The Parlor (off of Tull Hall). Questions? Contact Robert Catterall ([rfcatterall@gmail.com](mailto:rfcatterall@gmail.com)).

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## Give

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### New Crew Socks Needed

The foot clinic is in need of men's white crew socks that are new (in this case we cannot accept gently used) and more than 50% cotton. If you would like to donate, please drop off your gifts to the church office labeled "for foot clinic." And for all of you creative souls who are drawn to colored and cute socks, please remember we need basic white, mostly cotton men's crew socks. In this case, uniformity helps. If you have questions, please contact **Martha Crenshaw**.

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### The Work Continues on Black Mountain

For those of you who would like to donate funds to Black Mountain Presbyterian Church's (BMPC) community support, you may give through **Realm** by clicking the button below. Central will ensure that these funds go directly to BMPC. If you'd like to support efforts throughout the region, donate to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance by clicking the buttons below.

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## Humanitarian Response in Israel/Palestine

We have witnessed the millions of people caught in the middle of the devastating conflict between the government of Israel and Hamas. This humanitarian crisis is dire, and the loss of human life is unimaginable. Through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), the Presbyterian Church (USA) is providing assistance to those most vulnerable and supporting partners in Palestine and Israel who are responding to the needs of their neighbors. Our biggest concern is the safety and care for those caught in the middle of this conflict and in need of humanitarian aid, no matter their religious beliefs, politics, or nationality.

***Click this link*** to give to Disaster Relief for Israel/Palestine (please note Middle East in the Disaster Supported box).

***You can also click here to read more.***

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If you have any difficulty logging in to your profile or making your online gift within Realm, please contact ***Melissa Johnson***.

Questions about your giving statement? Please contact ***Kristie Johns*** at (404) 601-3128.

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Acting boldly and compassionately to serve  
people who are hungry, oppressed,  
imprisoned or poor.



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