



Buford Presbyterian Church

Guidelines for Acolytes

The Acolyte & Crucifer Program at Buford Presbyterian Church was born in 1987 under the direction of Gran Betts. It began with a handful of seven or eight youth and two very generous members who gave a memorial gift of six robes. Today we have over six dozen young people from 3rd through 12th grade participating.

The Worship Committee and the Pastors appreciate your involvement in the worship service. We are thankful to you for continuing this tradition and for serving your church faithfully every Sunday, with reverence and dedication.

Schedules and Trades

We appreciate all of your help and want to keep this service from being a burden on you. We will try to keep a schedule published via email several weeks in advance so that there are no surprises. Email bpcacolytecrucifer-owner@googlegroups.com if you need to be added to the group or to change your email address. We will try to help keep people scheduled to work primarily at the worship time that's most convenient for your family (if you let us know), but we still occasionally need to have people at a different service. The reason is that the number of youth is not balanced between the services and the scheduling depends on the number of people available.

If you are unable to work for whatever reason on your scheduled Sunday, we appreciate your help trying to arrange a trade. You can even email the list (bpcacolytecrucifer@googlegroups.com) if you want to ask the general group for help finding a trade. No matter what, it's better to let us know that there's a problem rather than to find out at the last minute on Sunday morning that someone is a no-show.

If there are any questions or issues, please don't hesitate to contact Alex Cook (00ander@gmail.com) - 770-888-1834.



Acolytes

At a typical 8:30 a.m. service there will be one acolyte. At a typical 11:00 a.m. service there will be two acolytes.

Prior to the Service

Please try to start dressing in your robe 15 minutes before the service begins. This is important so that we know that you are present. You may also want to make sure that you've used the restroom before putting on your robe. You should wear the wooden cross.

Lighting the Altar Candles

Walk slowly down the aisle. If there are two acolytes serving, try your best to walk together. If your candle lighter goes out you can relight your wick from the other Acolyte.

Push up on the knob on the candle lighter to make the flame higher, and pull down to pull in the wick and extinguish the flame. Let Mr. Dunn or Mr. Forder know if you find that the wick in your lighter is stuck.

The altar candles we use are filled with liquid wax. You only need to hold the lighted wick of the lighter close to the candle wick for it to light. On a Communion Sunday, there will be two candles on stands next to the table. On other Sundays, the candles will be at the back of the table.

Processional

After you have lit the candles, place your lighter under your seat to use later. Return to the Narthex so that you can enter in the processional.

During the Service

Please try to pay attention (everyone in church can see if you fall asleep!) During Advent the acolyte on the left will also light the advent wreath (usually during the Children's Sermon).

Extinguishing the Candles & Recessional

At the 8:30 a.m. service (or if there is no choir), retrieve your lighter at the last line of the last hymn. You should and take your place behind the communion table. When the Pastor gives the benediction, relight your lighters wick then extinguish both candles and move down to take your place behind the crucifer. Exit the sanctuary with the wick burning. The symbolic gesture is Christ's light exiting into the world with us.

At the 11:00 a.m. service (when there is a choir), retrieve your lighter at the first line of the last hymn. Both acolytes should immediately move to the communion table and relight your lighters wick then extinguish the candles at the same time. Then take your place behind the crucifer Exit the sanctuary with the wick burning. The symbolic gesture is Christ's light exiting into the world with us.