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Griffin, GA 30224

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First NEWS

Presbyterian Church

June 2014

Pastor Drew's Views

Joy in the Journey

I really enjoyed the series on Philippians that we just finished up. Philippians teaches us some amazing things! Paul says outlandish stuff like *"rejoice in the Lord always"* and *"don't worry about anything"*. I love that about Scripture! God tells us the truth, and very often, it's contrary to what we believe we can achieve or experience in life because we have believed lies for so long. Very few of us really believe we don't have to worry. Very few of us tap into God's gift of joy nearly enough.

The truth is we can have both. For sure, it's hard not to worry, but the Bible tells us we don't have to. Why? Because God is in control. He is in charge. He is always at work... no matter what. Holding "unswervingly" to that hope we profess is the birthplace of joy. It's hard to be happy when you're broke, but joy is what gets you through anything. Joy in the Lord is Paul's secret to being content *"in any and every situation"* (Philippians 4:12).

This is my hope for our congregation. I hope we will learn the secret of being content... no matter what. We will face many things together. We will experience great fun and laughter, but we will also cry many tears. There will be celebration and consternation. All of it is what makes up this thing called life. I look forward to living *"life to the full"* (John 10:10) together.

See you along the journey!

Pastor Drew

Philippians 1:3-6

Pastor Drew's schedule:

Pastor Drew is almost always in Griffin on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. He is in the office, out visiting or on some other adventure God has for him. Feel free to make an appointment through the office to meet with him or just stop by. You can also feel free to call him on his cell phone at 678-808-9236.

Out of the office

Pastor Drew will be out of the office June 2-6 to move his family into a new home. Seth Brown will preach on June 8th. Pastor Drew will also be out of the office June 9-13 for study leave, but will be back in worship on June 15.

General Assembly

Please pray for General Assembly taking place in Detroit, Michigan from June 14-21. The Session is paying close attention to the proceedings and will keep you informed.

Be Involved

Mission Outreach

Please join us on June 15th at 9:45 a.m. in the Traylor classroom to hear what George Mixon is doing in Kenya. This is a great time to meet George, hear about his missionary activities and ask questions. FPC supports George's work in Kenya and a good turnout is an important show of our personal support of what he is doing in the name of Jesus Christ for those who have not yet heard the Good News. George will also give the Message during our normal worship service but this, no doubt, will cover a Biblical topic primarily. Please join us at both sessions!

School Supplies

We are partners in education with Futral Road Elementary School. One of the things we do to help is collect school supplies for the needy children. We also fill shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. The Back-to-School sales are great opportunities to stock up for both mission projects. (School's not out yet, and we're already thinking about next year!)

Installation of Pastor Drew Elling

You are cordially invited to attend the installation of Drew Elling as the pastor of First Presbyterian Church. The installation service will be held on Sunday, June 1, at 3:00 pm. There will be a reception following the service.

June 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM *Richard Gaston			Family Fun Day 6-9 PM
	*Gracie Daniel					
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM **Tim & Becki Brown		**Bill & Sharon Day	**Todd & Angela Thacker
	**Art & Debbie Hammond					
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
			Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM *Eddie Huffman **Arthur & Donna Kreppts **Jim & Christy Skinner			*Rachel Minter *Tim Brown **Sid & Sara Lee Esary
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Covered Dish Lunch & Informational Meeting after worship			Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM		**Drew & Jennifer Elling **George & Joyce Kirby	
29	30					
Youth Mission Trip Commissioning during Worship Service *Beth Kirby *Ruth Allison						

Sunday Activities

Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship 10:50 am
PYF 5:30 pm

*-Birthday
**-Anniversary
GBSFW - Griffin Bible Study for Women

July 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
			Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM *Emily Thompson **Russ & Mairreen Geboy			
		*Evelyn Ingram				
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Early Bnd Service 8:30 AM *Joe Bailey			Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM		*Lucy Thacker	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Session Prayer Meeting Early Bnd Service 8:30 AM Youth leave for Mission Trip *Sharon Day *Allison Esary	*Bill Mixon	*Emma Minter	Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Youth return home *Sara Aldridge *Henry Aldridge		*Stewart Esary *Russell Jones	Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM *Joe Ingram *Wayman Hutson	*Angela Thacker	*Robert Rogers	*Millie Beverly
27	28	29	30	31		
Session - after worship *Elaine Huffman			Choir Rehearsal 7:00 PM			

Sunday Activities

Sunday School 9:45 am
Worship 10:50 am
PYF 5:30 pm

*-Birthday
**-Anniversary
GBSFW - Griffin Bible Study for Women

FAMILY FUN NIGHT

JUNE 7TH
6:00PM TO 9:00PM

Come join us for FUN and FELLOWSHIP

Dinner and a Movie

“FROZEN”

*****Bring the whole Family*****

(AND IT'S FREE!!!)

Food Pantry Delivery

In May we took several items to the food pantry:
20 Cereals
12 Canned goods
1 Milk Chocolate
4 Puddings
1 Cornmeal
8 Shakes
4 Drinks
13 Miscellaneous

A Plan to Read Through the Bible in a Year

www.esv.org/biblereadingplans

Church-wide Memory Verse for June

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians 1:20

Church-wide Memory Verse for July

Am I now trying to win the approval of human beings, or of God? Or am I trying to please people? If I were still trying to please people, I would not be a servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:10

INFORMATIONAL GATHERING

The Session invites you to an informational gathering regarding growing denominational concerns. It's a call for unity and trust in Jesus Christ. The gathering and luncheon will take place on Sunday, June 22 after worship in the Activities Center. Please bring a covered dish to share. Meat will be provided.

Deepest Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Louise Mixon, who went home to be with the Lord on Sunday, May 25th.

Young Lives

Dear Church family,

Once again I am heading to Texas to work as a child care worker with the Young Lives camp at Camp Buckner in Burnet, Texas. Camp is June 7 - 13 and I will need your prayers for extra strength and compassion! Please let me know if you would like to be a part of my prayer team for the week.

This year I am driving to save on cost. (I would love extra prayer for travel!!) My sister has agreed to join me so I will not be traveling alone and I am thankful! She would love to have your prayers also. She has never been and it will be out of her comfort zone for sure!

This year I had planned to go to the camp in Va. with our teen Moms from Griffin, but we are not taking a group to camp this year. Please consider helping "send" a teen Mom to camp next year with her child! Camp is expensive, but it is a great way for us to have a week with the Mom and the baby and love them with the love of Jesus.

If you want to know more about Young Lives please give me a call. We always need mentors, committee members, child care workers, and people to provide a meal! I so appreciate the way this church has supported this ministry in our community. A big 'shout out' to Seth (and Emily) and our youth for having our "Family Club" this month. It was a small group, but they were loved well!! Thank you First Presbyterian!!

Grace to you,
Ina Jones

Many Thanks

Dear Church Family,

How grateful I am to have such wonderful, caring friends. To the men who stayed with Ralph during his challenging times, my heartfelt appreciation for your support.

Thank you to the special women who put together such a nice reception for family and friends after the memorial service. Our family appreciates the love and support you have shown us during this difficult time.

Friends in Christ,
The Ralph Mitchell Family

Dear friends,

Thank you so much for the lovely gift basket for Administrative Assistant's Day. What a sweet surprise! I am so thankful for each of you. It is a real joy to know you and serve you in this position.

Blessings,
Millie

Dear Friends,

I believe it was *Shakespeare* who said ---- "*Parting is such sweet sorrow.*" How true that is when friendship is genuine and filled with love. That is my feeling as I leave friends I have grown to love here and move to the First Presbyterian Church in Pueblo, Colorado.

Lucy and I want to thank you for the cards, gifts and delicious meal we shared with you at my "going away dinner" this past Wednesday evening. What a turn out! It was good to share in that experience with you. I especially want to thank you for the love and support you have shown to me these past two years and the session for their support and willingness to step out of their "comfort zones" at times in order to experience God's will for this wonderful congregation.

As I move on to another opportunity I take many fond memories with me. You have become for me the stuff good memories are made of. As such, Lucy and I will always remember you with a smile in our hearts.

Rev. Earl Stewart
revstewart@gmail.com

Opportunities to Serve

JUNE

Elder in Charge
Janice Aiken

June Ushers

Chip Reahard Captain,
Robin Reahard
Eddie Huffman
Bryan Chipman
Bill Baldwin, Alternate

JUNE SESSION MEETINGS

June 8th at 8:30 am for prayer
June 22nd after the service

Ministry Team Leaders - please email your team minutes to millie@fpcgriffin.org by noon on Thursday, June 19th.

Communion Servers June 1

Pat Brown, Captain
Doug Tingle
Lou Baldwin
Bill Baldwin
Bill Day
Tom Baynham
Chip Reahard
Roy Villers
Eddie Huffman
Wendi Kirby

2s and 3s Nursery workers

June 1 - Trey & Tara Jones
June 8 - Wendi Kirby
June 15 - Stewart & Allison Esary
June 22 - John & Ruth Allison
June 29 - Todd & Angela Thacker

Children's Message

June 1 - Diane Gordon
June 8 - Ina Jones
June 15 - Drew Elling
June 22 - Cindy Baynham
June 29 - Sid Esary

Communion Servers June 8 (Pentecost)

Janice Aiken, Captain
Trey Jones
Diane Gordon
John Allison
Russell Johnson
Ralph Jones
Chip Reahard
Bill Baldwin
Ivan Betz
Doug Brown

JULY

2s and 3s Nursery workers

July 6 - Kyle & Johnna Johnson
July 13 - Darren & Sharon Norris
July 20 - Tim & Becki Brown
July 27 - Brian & Karen Chipman

JULY SESSION MEETINGS

July 13 at 8:30 am for prayer
July 27 after the service

Ministry Team Leaders - please email your team minutes to millie@fpcgriffin.org by noon on Thursday, July 24th..

Elder in Charge

Bill Farr

We will not have communion in July.

Children's Message

July 6 - Dianne Pinson
July 13 - Wendi Kirby
July 20 - Drew Elling
July 27 - Seth Brown

July Ushers

Wayne Griggs, Captain,
Richard Turner
Marion Musser
Emily Thompson
Bill Baldwin, Alternate

Worship Ministry Team

Mark your calendar for the following event and plan to join us..

We will have communion on June 1st and again on June 8th to celebrate Pentecost.

Beginning June 1 and continuing through July, two worship services will be offered. In addition to our regular service at 10:50 AM conducted by Drew, Jason will lead us in an Early Bird outdoor worship at 8:30 AM. This will be followed by light refreshments on the patio.

A signup sheet will be placed in the narthex for everyone to sign up to provide food and juice and to assist with set up and cleanup for the service. If we do not have enough people to sign up, we cannot have this service.

Facilities

We had to repair a damaged ceiling area in hall next to the Activities Building caused by freeze damage on a condensate line and was not seen until the air conditioner was running.

The First Presbyterian Church of Griffin is receiving a used golf cart to bring possible church attendees from the Woods assisted living and nursing home to our services. The trail to the Woods has been made and the storage building is ready for the storage of the golf cart.

An above ground water line was put through to the border of the sidewalk to make the watering of flower bed facing the sanctuary easier.

Work days in June will be announced to:

Trim shrubbery

Do siding repair on the storage building and repair the roof on the grill (supplies are on hand)

Youth

First I just want to thank the entire congregation for your prayers and support for student missions here at the church. Because of your individual contributions, this summer is possible. Believe me when I say that you are laying up treasures in heaven, and building faith in the hearts of these students. Thank you!!!

We are leaving for New Orleans on July 13th and will return on the 20th. Please pray for safe travels for all the groups joining us for Son Servants. Also please pray for specifically for our students. Pray that their hearts will be ready to receive what God has planned for them during this amazing time of service. Also pray that God will use our work groups to challenge all of us to grow in faith and in love during the week. Most of all pray that the light of Christ shines into the darkness, and He is seen in and through each of us while in New Orleans.

One of the amazing things about this trip to New Orleans, is that Son Servants partners with some amazing local ministries to really help those in need in the city. During the week many of us will be on different work teams, going all around the city. Some of us will help out local teachers at city schools in New Orleans. Teams will also work at food pantries and even homeless shelters. What I love about this trip, is that it teaches all of us (including me) that there is not just one type of service. All service done in love, and through the love of Christ is worthy of performing to the best of our abilities.

Throughout the summer please keep all our students in your prayers. I hope that you will take some time after we get back and listen to the great stories from the week. And when you see their joy and their smiles, know that God used your generosity and love to accomplish His will in these students' lives.