

# First NEWS

Presbyterian Church

**April 2015**

## Pastor Drew's Views

### *You Learn Something Everyday*

April 14<sup>th</sup> will be the one year anniversary of my arrival at FPC to be your new Pastor. As they say, "it's hard to believe!" I will never forget Johnna Johnson calling me to inquire with kids in one hand, chicken feed in another, and a phone under her chin. Within a few weeks I was meeting with the PNC. Not long after that, my first Sunday was Easter Sunday, and here we all are today.

One thing is for sure: you really do learn something every day. I am always learning new things about how much you love the Lord, each other, and doing the Lord's work. I have learned how passionate you are about God's Word and preserving the Truth we find in it. You are going to great lengths to demonstrate this commitment to the world. I have learned that too. I have also learned how much you are willing to love me and my family. I guess what I'm saying is that after one year of being your Pastor, I have learned one thing most of all: I am home.

*Pastor Drew*

Philippians 1:3-6

## PC(USA) News

A majority of Presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have voted to approve gay marriage, a position endorsed by the General Assembly last year. First Presbyterian Church of Griffin is currently a member of the PC(USA), but transitioning to ECO. The result of this vote will change the PC(USA) constitutional definition of marriage. It will now be expanded to include a "commitment between two people." No clergy will be required to officiate a same-sex marriage or host a ceremony on church property under the new constitutional amendment. The change will take effect June 21. First Presbyterian Church of Griffin does not support or condone these changes.

## Christian Education

### Our Wee Children Need You

...just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me. Matthew 25:40

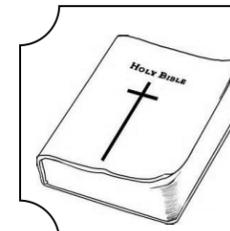
Loving on babies and toddlers is one of the most rewarding ways to love Jesus. We find ourselves in great need for more people to volunteer to work in the nursery three or four times a year. If you are interested in taking part in this vital ministry, please speak to Seth Brown, Cindy Baynham, or Wendi Kirby.

### The Nursery

The Christian Education ministry team is working on several exciting developments, including a much needed nursery policy. If you have any concerns you'd like this policy to address please contact Wendi Kirby, Seth Brown, or Cindy Baynham.

### Easter Egg Hunt

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with the Easter egg hunt. The kids had a ball. You really are very generous and loving.



### Church-wide Memory Verse for April

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy, he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead...

1 Peter 1:3

## Opportunities to Serve in April

### Elder in Charge

Art Hammond

### 2s and 3s Nursery workers for April

April 5th: Brian and Karen Chipman  
April 12th: Tim and Becki Brown  
April 19th: Trey and Tara Jones  
April 26th: Wendi, Beth, and Laura Kirby

### Communion Servers

April 2,  
Maundy Thursday  
(by Intinction)

Jim Skinner  
Bob Gordon  
Joe Bailey

### April Ushers

Kyle Johnson, Capt.  
Brad Singley  
Lisa Singley  
Jane Bailey  
Tim Brown, alternate

### Children's Message

4/5 - Dianne Pinson  
4/12 - Wendi Kirby  
4/19 - Drew Elling  
4/26 - Ashley Moran

### Communion Servers April 5 (Easter)

Art Hammond, Capt.  
Janice Aiken  
Doug Tingle  
Wendi Kirby  
Lou Baldwin  
Gary Hollums  
Stewart Esary  
Tom Hamilton  
Bob Bugg  
Bill Day

x2

# Worship Ministry

As many of you know Lou and Jon Geerlings have left our church due to their move to Macon. They both have faithfully served many ministries here at FPC. Lou was the silent force behind the Worship Ministry. We thanked them, wished them luck, and will pray for them. So, let us also pray for the newest Session member coming on board as the next Worship Ministry Leader. We are excited about the new life of our church. Hand in hand, back to back, prayer to prayer we will move forward doing His good works

## Holy Week Services

- 4/2..... Maundy Thursday Service with communion at 7 p.m.
- 4/3..... Good Friday Service with communion by intinction at noon
- 4/5..... SonRise service at 7:30 a.m. pancake breakfast Following.  
Easter Sunday Service with communion 11:00 a.m.

# Missions & Outreach

## April Missional Focus

**McIntosh Trail's Meals on Wheels** is a local mission we support. Brenda Sell, Assistant Director for the Council on Aging, will join us on Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>. McIntosh Trail's Meals On Wheels serves persons who are homebound, unable to prepare a nutritious meal, and do not have anyone able to prepare a nutritious meal on a regular basis. There is no income requirement to receive Meals on Wheels. Donations help to continue providing meals to those most needy. To be eligible for Meals On Wheels a person must be homebound, unable to prepare a nutritious meal, and not have anyone able to prepare a nutritious meal on a regular basis. Nutrition programs are provided through the area senior center for each county.

We will have a **Rushton's Hope Day** on Saturday, May 5 from 9-noon. Rushton's Hope is a local ministry to the homeless population in Griffin. Sign-ups will occur on Sundays in April.

**Drive to stock up Rushton's Hope!** Here are some items we will be collecting after Easter to support Rushton's Hope (there will be a collection point set up in the Narthex):

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Vienna sausages/potted meat  | granola bars/cereal bars            |
| individual packs of cookies  | pop top cans of tuna or chicken     |
| pop top cans of beanie weenies   | peanut butter/cheese snack crackers |
| fruit cups/pudding cups  | small cans of juice                 |
| bottles of water   | juice boxes/pouches                 |
| saltines in individual packs (like you get at restaurants for soup and salads) |                                     |

# Facilities

## UNDERSTUDY WANTED

Most of you know that member George Kirby carefully regulates the heating and air conditioning systems as well as performs a host of maintenance tasks. At a recent Facilities Team meeting George recommended that someone learn some of the tasks that he performs so that the knowledge of various systems does not reside in one person. Facilities is looking for a younger member who would be willing to begin learning some of these details. If you are interested, please speak with George or contact Roger Soons.

The Facilities committee coordinated its first clean-up day March 21. The sunny Saturday was sandwiched between 2 very rainy days so I took that as a sign that we were to be working. The work was plentiful and the workers were enough and that is what God promises. We certainly made a dent but as you know, yard beautification is never ending so I am sure we will meet again soon. Many thanks to: John Allison, Bill Baldwin, Drew Elling, Debbie Hammond, George Hollender, Evelyn and Joe Ingram, Ralph Jones, George Kirby, Linda and Roger Soons, Todd Thacker, Emelie and Doug Tingle, and Roy Villers.

See you all next time and thank you again!

Lou Baldwin

In March, we took the following food to the food pantry:

- 16 boxes of cereal
- 10 canned goods
- 3 rolls of paper towels
- 18 miscellaneous food items

### The x2 mission continues.

The goal is for all of us to invite at least two people to join us for worship. Remember, we have a powerful fellowship because of Who lives in us and speaks through us.

**If you haven't recently,** check out [www.fpcgriffin.org](http://www.fpcgriffin.org). Our website is a great tool to share with people you know. On the website, there is also a link to our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/FPCGriffin](http://www.facebook.com/FPCGriffin)). Check it out!

## ECO Presbytery meeting

Several folks will be attending the upcoming ECO Presbytery meeting being held at Peachtree Presbyterian Church the weekend of April 17-18.

## Prayer Meeting

Session will meet in the Parlor on Sunday, April 12, at 9:00 am for prayer. Everyone is welcome to join us.

# Things of Note

## April Anniversaries

- 4/2/1974 - Lanier & Marty Dunn
- 4/12/1975 - Russell & Mimi Johnson

## New Address

Jon & Lou Geerlings  
5300 Zebulon Rd, GH55  
Macon, GA 31210

## April Birthdays

- 6 - Bess Mills
- 9 - Tatum Daniel
- 11 - Elsie Musser
- 13 - Bill Day
- 16 - Laurie Hudson
- 17 - Christy Skinner
- 18 - Debbie Hammond
- 22 - Nichole Steele
- 22 - Francois deBruin
- 23 - Greg Blanton
- 24 - Roi Bugg
- 26- Bill Baldwin
- 29 - Justin Grubbs

## Welcome Our New Members

Welcome  
**Cheyenne Sewell**  
and  
**Vince and Karen Kiley**  
to our fellowship as active members.

## April Session Meeting

April 26 after worship  
Please email your ministry team minutes to [millie@fpcgriffin.org](mailto:millie@fpcgriffin.org) by Thursday, 4/23 at noon.

# Happy Easter!

# Youth

The story in Luke 9, where Jesus sends out his disciples into the world has always stood out to me. I think it may have to do with my own personal walk with God, in that I do more gathering at church and less going out. Why is that? It's because going out is hard. It can definitely feel awkward at times. However, it can and usually is just what we need in our lives. Jesus gathered all his disciples together and then sent them out in pairs to tell the world about repentance. imagine it must have been difficult at first. They most certainly faced great challenges, but look at the results. The Church is still here and its message of repentance continues to be heard around the world. This church will all gather together this July for Sports Camp, and then go out to bring the message of Jesus to Griffin. It is not always going to be easy, there will be challenges that we must overcome, but going out is exactly what we need. Sports Camp is July 13th-17th at City Park from 6pm-8pm. Join the team!!!

Seth

To all those who never got to go to their prom, or to those who wish they could have gone one more time. Presbyterian Youth Fellowship (PYF) wants to invite you to attend our Senior Senior Prom on Sunday May 3rd from 5pm-8pm. It is going to be a night filled with food, fun, and some funky moves on the dance floor!! There will be a fantastic meal, served by the students of First Presbyterian. It will be followed by a dance party to end all dance parties!! All the proceeds go towards our summer camps, so invite your friends and family to come join the fun. Tickets will be available starting April 6th. Can't wait to see you there!!!

# Congregational Care

It's Coming

It's Coming

It's Coming

## LADIES

Mark your calendars now  
for Saturday, May 2nd  
at 2:00 pm  
for the  
LADIES TEA  
at FPC.

Call your Mother, call your daughter  
Your granddaughter or your sister  
or any of your lady friends  
and tell them all  
about this special event.  
Invite them to attend.

More information to follow

## Wednesday Night Potluck April 8th

The next all-church Covered Dish Meal will be Wednesday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. Join us for great food and fellowship. Invite a friend.

## First Presbyterian Church – The Beginning

From The Centennial Historical Sketch by Eleanor Corbin Blanchard

During the ministry of the Rev. Henry L. Deane, in 1844, Robert S. Lanier and his wife, Mary Jane, presented themselves for admission to this church and after examination were admitted by a public profession of their faith. Of special interest is the notation taken from the minutes: "Sunday morning, March 31 1844, ....Sidney Clopton (musician, poet and author), infant son of Robt. S and Mary J. Lanier; Ellen Elizabeth and Samuel Henry, infant children of Henry L. and Catherine T. Deane received the ordinance of baptism." The Laniers were members of the Griffin Presbyterian Church for four years before moving to Macon.

On December 29, 1849 records state that "...the relationship of Stated Supply was exchanged for the more permanent and endearing one of Pastor" and Reverend William J. Keith, Stated Supply for three years, was installed by a commission of Presbytery. It was largely due to his untiring efforts that the first church was built in 1848 and Griffin Presbyterian Sunday School organized with ten teachers and 46 pupils. The church building cost \$2,000 of which \$150 was given by the Church Extension Committee of Presbytery. The original acre lot at Hill and Chapel Streets was received by the church as a grant from Gen L. L. Griffin, the founder of the city of Griffin. The Rev. Keith resigned in June, 1845 after "a very successful and fruitful ministry". Further organization; adoption of rules and regulations for the better government of the church; a board of trustees; and incorporation were accomplished during his ministry. Of interest is the Board of Trustees were to annually, on October 1, rent the pews and collect the rent quarterly to give to the Clerk of Sessions.

In the early days, "the Session was very rigid in discipline, and often cited members to appear before them to answer charges. For example, records show that "The clerk was directed to cite Brother X to meet the Session at the church on the second Sabbath in April to show cause why he absented himself from church, and thereby neglected the means of grace." Brother X answered the charges: "I am in such circumstances that I am not able to appear in suitable attire at the church on Sabbath Day". The case was continued for further consideration

The first manse was built in 1881 on the other half acre of the original acre lot, next to the church. Cost: \$1,200.

In October 1883, the congregation looked forward to the building of a new church to replace "the current dilapidated building". After much discussion concerning the location, in the spring of 1888, the cornerstone was laid on a lot at the corner of Taylor and Eighth Streets (now Burger King). The inscription on the stone said: "Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone."—Ephesians 2:20. The first service was held November 4, 1888. The bell was moved from the old church in December 1888. Upon full payment of the debt, February 18, 1890, dedicatory services of the new Presbyterian Church were held. The choir and congregation sang:

### A Dedicatory Hymn

'Thou whose unmeasured temple stands,  
Built over earth and sea,  
Accept the walls, which human hands  
Have raised, O God to Thee.

And let the Comforter and Friend,  
Thy Holy Spirit meet  
With those who here in worship bend,  
Before Thy mercy seat.

May those who err be guided here  
To find the better way,  
And they who mourn and they who fear,  
Be strengthened as they pray.'

About 1894, the Pilcher pipe organ for the church was bought for \$15.00. At one time four churches in Griffin had Pilcher organs—the Presbyterian Church housed the first, which is still in use today.

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# Denominational Update

Dear First Presbyterian Family,

Things continue to go smoothly in our move from PCUSA to ECO.

Since our last letter to you, we have done several things. First, **the Session has set up a Special Committee of the Congregation (SCC)** for the propose of negotiating the agreement for our departure from PCUSA. That committee is chaired by Doug Tingle and other committee members are Roger Soons, Art Hammond, Sid Esary, Jim Skinner, Charlotte Thacker, Joe Bailey and Ralph Jones. Pastor Drew serves as Ex Officio member. The SCC has begun meeting to gather information and plan our negotiations with the PET team from Presbytery. One of the main items will be to negotiate an amount that we will pay Presbytery to release us with our property.

We have received two **appraisals on the church property**. The appraisals reflect depressed real estate prices, which is good news for us, since the amount we pay Presbytery will be based in part on the average of these two values. We have received **loan proposals from the two local banks**, United and First National, to fund our payment to Presbytery. The committee has accepted the better proposal, from United Bank, which will allow us initially up to 20 years to repay the loan. We expect to negotiate a price that we should be able to repay without too much strain on the budget. Based on the appraisals, we are looking for a much lower settlement amount than we had originally thought.

We are hoping to expedite the process from here on out. We got a financial package to PET last week, showing our appraisals and financial information. Next, we have scheduled a **meeting with PET on April 7th to begin negotiations**. If that moves fairly quickly, we can move to a **congregational vote on the agreement as early as May 3rd and a Presbytery vote on May 19th**. It will be a tight schedule, but we will try to make it work. If there are any delays, the Presbytery vote will be pushed out to **August 22nd, worst case scenario**. So, it looks good. Please continue to pray that the negotiations will go well, so we can get on with our life in ECO.

By the way, **we are already participating in ECO activities**. We have been **invited to a meeting this week that includes all of the nearby ECO churches**, for the purpose of discussing the planting of churches in Egypt! We said that ECO is “missional.” Now we’re seeing it in action. Also, several of us are going to the **Spring ECO Presbytery meeting in Atlanta** in mid April, as observers. It certainly is nice to feel a part of the ECO family already.

Please continue to pray for our church as we finish this process and **join ECO. Hopefully it will be soon - May, but in any event, no later than August.**

For the Session and the SCC,

Art Hammond  
Clerk

## Be Involved

### Mission Outreach

Our mission opportunity this month is

McIntosh Trail  
Meals on Wheels

See the article inside for more information.

### Women of the Church Monthly Bible Study

will meet in Fellowship Class Room at

**10:15 a.m. April 6, 2015.**

Scriptures to be studied are

**2 Corinthians 11:1-22**

Scripture to be studied: 2 Corinthians 11:1-32. This is Lesson 8 starting on page 69 of our Study Book..