

First NEWS

Presbyterian Church

December 2014

Pastor Drew's Views

Life Changing Encounters

I will never forget Christmas' growing up. It was all about family, great fun, staying up late, and of course, gifts! As a child, I would have to say Christmas was the most exciting and thrilling time of year. One Christmas, I got a Cincinnati Bengals helmet. I slept all night wearing it. I always remember running around with my cousins, picking on my little brother, and coming downstairs wide-eyed to see how many presents were under the tree. As a child, Christmas was always exciting and thrilling, but it was never about Jesus. Christmas became about Jesus for me in 1983 when I accepted Him, by faith, as my Lord and Savior. After that, I was never the same.

That is what I hope this Christmas will be for you and your family—life changing. We are going to take a look at a few characters from the familiar Christmas story who changed forever from their encounter with the baby Jesus. Join us on Sunday mornings in December to see what I mean. Invite a friend or family member who needs to meet Him. In fact, meet Him for yourself all over again. Put your faith in Jesus for the first time or recommit. When Christmas is about Jesus, it is life changing.

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Drew

Philippians 1:3-6

Christmas Schedule

As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, please join us for all or as many of the planned activities as possible. The presence of each member multiplies our joy!

November 30

Lighting of the Advent Candle

11:00 am

December 7

Lighting of the Advent Candle

11:00am

December 10

Supper

6:00 pm

Children's Christmas Program

6:30 pm

December 14

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Christmas Cantata

11:00 am

December 17

Cookout at the Pavilion

Christmas Caroling

December 21

Lighting of the Advent Candle

11:00 am

December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Communion

5:00 pm

Celebrations

December Birthdays

1 – Joyce Jones
3 – Shelby Thacker
8 – Brittney Musser
7 – Roger Soons
9 – Wendi Kirby
Brad Singley
10 – Seth Brown
12 – Tom Baynham
24 – Louis Thacker
26 – Sharon Holmes
28 – Trey Jones
Elizabeth Webster
29 – Elsa Sell
31 – Charlotte Thacker



Tingle Kringle Jingle

Don't forget! The Tingle Kringle Jingle is coming. On Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 -1:00, we are providing a fun morning for the kids so their parents can confer with Santa. Or just take a much needed nap.

It's not too late to reserve a spot, but please call the office or send Seth an email by Thursday, December 4, so we have enough lunch for all the children.

If you would like to help for any part of the day or with preparations before hand, please let Seth know.

December Anniversaries

12/2/1980 - Joe & Evelyn Ingram
12/2/2006 - Bryan & Karen Chipman
12/27/1968 - Ted & Lynn Spencer
12/28/1968 - Bob & Diane Gordon
12/28 - Jon & Lou Geerlings

Youth

I am so excited to tell you that we are going to have some new members joining our church next year. That's right, Confirmation is coming! It is going to be an amazing journey with our 9th- 12th grade students. We are going to be looking at some church history, what it means to be Presbyterian, but most of all we are going to be focused on the good news of the Gospel. As a congregation please pray for Drew and me as we teach this class, also pray for the students as they go through this life changing time.

Confirmation will be held on Sunday nights from 5pm-6pm. Below are the dates for the class.

December 7th, 14th
January 11th, 25th
Confirmation Retreat 16th-19th

Thank you so much for your support.

Seth Brown



...for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Luke 2:10-11

Merry Christmas!

Opportunities to Serve in December

Elder in Charge

Trey Jones

Children's Message

12/7 - Ashley Moran
12/14 - Lou Baldwin
12/21 - Drew Elling
12/28 - Sid Esary

Communion Servers December 7

Trey Jones, Capt.
Art Hammond
Roy Villers
Joe Bailey
Lou Geerlings
Lou Baldwin
Louis Thacker
Todd Thacker
Bonnie Pfrogner
Ivan Betz

December Session Meeting

Dec. 14 @ 8:30 for prayer
Dec. 8 at 7:00 pm

Please email your ministry team minutes to millie@fpcgriffin.org by Friday, Dec. 5th at 9:0 am.

December Ushers

Jim Skinner, Capt.
Bill Baldwin
Jean Parente
John Parente
Gary Hollums, Alt.

2s and 3s Nursery workers for December

12/7 Tim and Becky Brown
12/14 Brian and Karen Chipman
12/21 Seth and Emily Brown
12/28 Wendi, Elizabeth and Laura Kirby



Food Pantry

We delivered 17 boxes of cereal, 1 loaf of bread, 10 popsicles and 1 can of tomato sauce to the Five Loaves and Two Fishes food pantry in November. Thanks to Doug Brown for faithfully making this delivery each month.

Joy Gift

For those wishing to contribute to the "Joy Gift" this year, the envelopes can be found on the table in the narthex.

Church Office Holiday Hours

The office will be closed December 24, 25 and 26th. The staff can be reached on their cell phones in case of an emergency.

Drew - 678-808-9236
Seth - 770-500-5143

Facilities

Thanks for the 20's helping to maintain the church property.

Have you noticed that you can once again see the concrete around the church? A Big THANK YOU to member George Hollender who has put in more than his share of giving some extra 20's to the Lord over the past few months in pressure washing the sidewalks and patios around the entire church.

Another Big Thanks to member Ralph Jones who put in his 20's removing dead tree limbs and dead tree to help keep us all safe out on the church grounds.

As always, member George Kirby puts in his 20's quietly working to repair as many items as he can or meeting the repairman to explain what's wrong if it is something he can't fix.

The efforts of these folks and others greatly help to keep the maintenance costs in check so your dollars can better be used in doing the Lord's work. While they don't seek any recognition, it would be nice to occasionally let them know we appreciate them. There is no shortage of tasks to be accomplished, so please let the Facilities Team know if you would like to devote some of your 20's working with us. Contact Roger Soons (770-233-1867) or John Allison (770-228-8630).



Heartfelt Thanks

To my church family at First Pres.

I would like to thank you all for your prayers, cards, phone calls, visits, and wonderful food.

I can't put into word how all these made me feel.

I am on the mend and hope to be back before Christmas.

Please continue to keep me in your prayers.

In Christian Love,
Dianne Pinson

Nov. 15, 2014

Dear First Pres - Griffin,

It was a delight to be with you all this summer and a rich blessing to mourn Louise's death and celebrate her life together with her 'other family.' Thank you for all the ways you served and ministered to our family during that time. We are also grateful for your generous giving toward our ministry in Kenya this past year. You guys have journeyed with us through many changes -- our children continue to graduate and move on, and our ministry focuses have shifted as God has opened new doors. We are excited about George's new role as pastor of Nairobi's International Christian Fellowship beginning in January. He will remain as the Serge Nairobi team leader for now and be involved in Bible storying, although our teammate David Griffith will begin to oversee much of that ministry. Next week George and David will host a pastors' forum for about 20 key church leaders who have been trained in storying, to further equip them and to establish a vision and strategy for the future.

Thanks again for FPC's partnership with us in renewing both Kenyan and expat hearts with the gospel of grace.

Blessings,
Martha Mixon

Spreading our love for - and because of - the Gospel

December Birthday Gift for Jesus!

How can we present Jesus with a birthday gift if he is not physically with us? We will feed His sheep. Each Sunday school class will be buying Jesus a birthday gift of their choice depending upon the amount of money they raise in their Sunday School offering. You can also do this as an individual or family by going to www.samaritanspurse.org/gift-catalog/give/

Christmas Cantata

Our choir has worked diligently to prepare a wonderful Cantata for us again this year. Plan to attend on Sunday, December 14th at 11:00 am.

Stay connected with each other

www.fpcgriffin.org

<https://www.facebook.com/FPCGriffin>



Website and Facebook page

The website has had a makeover! Thanks Andy Musser! Check it out at www.fpcgriffin.org. There's a calendar of events, information about the process with presbytery and more. The website is a great way to tell friends about our church. Check out the Facebook page, too, at www.facebook.com/fpcgriffin. You'll find pictures, status updates, fun stuff and funny stuff.

Adult Sunday School

The new quarter begins, Sunday, December 7 at 9:45 a.m. With a new study and book, this is a great time to join a class and start digging in God's Word. The Adults' study is "The God Who Saves." Books will be distributed in Sunday school on November 30, or you can pick one up at the church during the week.

Children's Sunday School

On December 7, the kids set out on a new journey to Hope Town this quarter as they explore the Power and Parables of Jesus. Please join us at 9:45 for the kick off video each Sunday Morning in the Power Up Room before the kids divide into their small groups.

Christian Education

Last Wednesday Night Cookout!

Join us on Wednesday, December 17th for a cookout, s'mores and Christmas carols! This will be the last Wednesday Night Live! of the year. Bring your own hot dog sticks, warm blankets and a chair to sit on. We'll have a hot fire going outside and Sylvia will be leading us in some carols. Afterwards, we will visit some folks and sing to them in person! Should be fun.

Our New Members

Please welcome Jennifer Elling, Emily Elling, Seth & Emily Brown, Jim and Dorothy Graham and Laurie Hudson to the active membership of the church. Check out their pictures (coming soon) outside the church office.

Welcome!

New Member's Class

Pastor Drew will be leading a one-day new member's class on Sunday, December 14th after church. We will meet in the Traylor room. There will be snacks to share. If you are interested in active membership, please plan on attending.

First Wednesday Night Live! of 2015 will be January 14th

Wednesday Night Live!

We will not have Wednesday night Live! activities on

December 24th
December 31st
January 7th.

Wednesday Night Live!

6:00 p.m.	Meal **
6:30 p.m.	Kid's activities
6:45 p.m.	1 - Young Adults Live!
6:45 p.m.	2 - Adult Discipleship Live!
7:30 p.m.	Chancel Choir Practice

**Call the church office for reservations or fill out the slip in the bulletin on Sunday.

Come join the fun!

Church-wide Memory Verse for December

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the LORD Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.

Malachi 3:10 NIV

Exciting ways to serve this month



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Tingles' Kris Kringle Day

It is time to get ready for Tingles' Kris Kringle Day. It will be Saturday, December 6th from 9am to 1:00pm. There will be two shifts 9 to 11 and 11 to 1. (Of course you could work all day). If you worked last year and want to work again this year, please email me at cindy@fpcgriffin.org and tell me where you would like to work. If this is your first time, we would love to plug you in. Email me and let me know the times you can work.

Also we hope you will invite neighbors and friends. This is a time for moms and dads to get some shopping done without the kids. It is a fun time with Kris Kringle and crafts and lunch.

Mini-Christmas Tree Ministry

Join us for a Pot luck lunch after church on December 7th. Bring a dish to share. Meat and drinks are provided. After the meal, for those who can stay, we will be making gifts for delivery to shut-ins and other folks who have been having a tough time getting to church. It will be a great time of fellowship and service. Please make your reservation by filling out the slip in the bulletin or by calling the office by Thursday, December 4th. Please let Millie know if you will be here for lunch, if you will stay and help decorate the trees, and if you can help deliver the decorated trees.



It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year

Sadly friends for too many people it's not. So, once again FPC is helping the needy of our community by serving a wonderful Turkey meal on Christmas Day. Imagine being alone on Christmas (I can't), a knock on the door, and someone with a smile and kind words hands you this wonderful meal. Mission complete, we have made somebody's day. Thank you Baby Jesus!

This project will take many volunteers, telephoning, cooks, and bakers. Kitchen help, assembly workers, delivers, clean up crew, and much more. Conclude by sharing a meal with all other church volunteers including music and fellowship. When all is wrapped up I'll come home to about 14 people gathered at my home for dinner and to celebrate the day.

There are sign up sheets in the narthex to start preparing for a successful project. What a simple way to honor Baby Jesus by giving to his people on his birthday. This is my 4th year. I have been greatly enriched and humbled by this service to Christ.

Sponsor a Tree

Please sponsor a Christmas Tree for \$10.00 to help us offset the expenses for our Christmas Trees of love. You can turn the money into Seth, Millie, or Cindy. Thank you so much!

Children's Christmas Pageant

The children, Cindy, Sylvia, and Pat have been working hard to get ready for their Christmas pageant on Wednesday, December 10, so please plan on joining us for this special night and show our kids some love. Dinner will be at 6:00 followed by the presentation and then a birthday cake for Jesus.

And don't forget...

Christmas Eve Service

Come worship the newborn King on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m. in the sanctuary. Communion will be served.



Be Involved

Mission Outreach

Our mission opportunities this month are

Samaritan's Purse
&
FPC's Christmas Day Lunch

See the articles inside for more information.

Women of the Church Bible Study

Monday, December 1 at 10:15 am

Scripture to study:
2 Corinthians 4:7-5:10

All ladies are invited to attend.