

First NEWS

Presbyterian Church

February 2015

Pastor Drew's Views

There Is Power in Our Fellowship

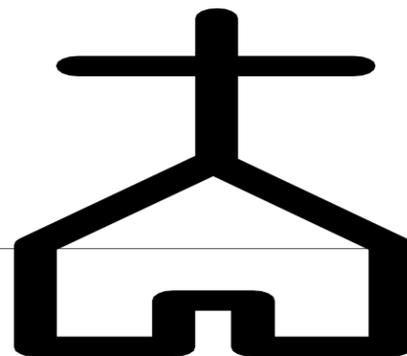
Do you know how powerful we are? I hope so. You are powerful too. That is because we are the Body of Christ. We are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. As believers, the Bible says, God lives in you. He also lives in our church. He speaks through us, works through us, heals through us, and saves through us. That means His power transfers to the people we meet and love in faith. In fact, Paul says that the power in us is the same power that raised Jesus from the dead (Ephesians 1:20)!

Let's try it out. Let's take it for a spin. Check out my x2 challenge on page 3. Take it seriously. Invite someone you know, in the circle of influence God has given you, to come into our powerful church. I will be preaching a new series during Lent called, "Living the Cross Centered Life". There will be a clear gospel invitation each week. There will be meat each week for growing disciples, but also milk for new seekers and guests. I am praying that God will do something amazing right in front of our faces as we x2 in faith. I want you to pray too. Who has the Lord laid upon your heart to invite into the koinonea or the powerful fellowship of faith? Of course, we will continue our mission in Griffin with ministries like Rushton's Hope and Habitat for Humanity. We will also continue our mission to "the ends of the earth" as well. But let's challenge ourselves and see what God also wants to do right here at the corner of Macon and Futral Roads this Lent. Remember always, it's a powerful place to be.

Pastor Drew

Philippians 1:3-6

x2



Christian Education

Adult Sunday School

If one of your New Year's resolutions was to spend more time in God's Word, we can help. Right now we have two adult Sunday school classes, and you would be more than welcome in either one. Please join us in either the Fellowship room or the Bledsoe class room this Sunday morning.

x2

Study groups

There will be some groups meeting during Lent to study the book, Living the Cross Centered Life by C.J. Mahaney. Sign-ups will be available in the Narthex during worship. The study will go along with the sermon series.



Church-wide Memory Verse for February

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

I John 4:7

Two & Three year old Sunday School Class



We are growing and so are our needs. That's a really great thing. We have a couple of children who need this Sunday school opportunity now, but more are on the way. (Maggie Jones, you're getting big fast!)

Please join the Christian Education committee in praying for God to call someone to lead this very special ministry. We will open this class as soon as someone answers that

New Member's Class

Pastor Drew will teach a new member class on Sunday, February 22nd at 9:30 a.m. in the Parlor for anyone who wishes to learn more about membership at First Presbyterian Church or to join as an active member.

Opportunities to Serve in February

Elder in Charge

Roy Villers

2s and 3s Nursery workers for February

2/1 - Tim & Becki Brown
2/8- Trey & Tara Jones
2/15 - Brian & Karen Chipman
2/22 - Seth & Emily Brown

February Ushers

Darren Norris Capt.
Sharon Norris
Tom McGurk
Donna McGurk
Bill Baldwin alternate

x2

Children's Message

2/1 - Youth
2/8 Drew Elling
2/15 Diane Gordon
2/22 - Ina Jones

Communion Servers

February 8

Roy Villers, Captain
Doug Tingle
Art Hammond
Jim Skinner
Marion Musser
Andy Musser
Bonnie Pfrogner
Ina Jones
Louis Thacker
Chip Reahard

Worship Ministry

We have been busy planning and organizing new activities for 2015. Please see Lou Geerlings if you would like to join our team and help finalize these plans.

Prayer Meeting

Session will meet in the Parlor on Sunday, February 8, at 9:00 am for prayer. Everyone is welcome to join us.

Lent calendar/communion dates

2/1 Youth Sunday
No communion
2/8 Communion
2/18 ... Ash Wednesday
2/22 ... First Sunday of Lent
Scout Sunday
3/29 ... Palm Sunday
Confirmation Sunday
4/2 Maundy Thursday Service with communion at 7 p.m.
4/3 Good Friday Service with communion at noon
4/5 Easter Sunday with communion



Loving our world through

Missions & Outreach

Samaritan's Purse

During December, our Sunday School classes raised money for different mission projects offered through Samaritan's Purse:

The Covenant Sunday School class raised \$665 to dig a well in a developing country.

For the PreK-k class, their gift for December was to purchase a farm animal for a family. The total cost is \$35. They raised \$35.

The grade school class, raised \$36. It will go to feed a child for 4 weeks.

The Young Adult Class raised \$60 for a shared contribution to Operation Heal our Patriots.

Food Pantry

We delivered 21 boxes of cereal, 5 cans of soup, 2 cans of chicken broth, and 6 cans of other food to the food pantry in January. Remember, even if you don't see the cart, we're are still collecting for the food pantry.

x2

Missional Focus: x2 challenge

Pastor Drew has been preaching a series called "We Are the Body". The Bible says we are powerful because God has made His dwelling in us. He chooses to work through us, speak through us, love the world through us. So, wherever we are, it's a powerful place to be. As a result, our missional focus this Lent will be to invite new people into our fellowship. The challenge is for every member to invite two people (x2) from work, from your neighborhood, or from the line at the post office to visit us at least once during Lent. Pastor Drew will preach a series called, "Living the Cross Centered Life" during Lent. There will be a gospel invitation each week as well. Let's see what God will do through His Body at FPC!

Expressions of Gratitude

Dear church family,

I have a break from chemo for a month. I want to take this time of feeling great to thank all of you for all that you have done for me. The cards, caring bridge comments, and meals have been overwhelming, but the thing of which I am most appreciative is the prayers and prayer meeting on my behalf. To know that so many Godly people are interceding for me is both humbling and comforting. My journey is not over, but know that God is answering your prayers. The doctors have said that they expect a great outcome. The cancer looks like it is just in the pleura around the lung and a 1.7 cm spot on my ovary. He said that in this case the stage 4 is not appropriate because we found it so early. I am praising God and I want you to join me. There is part of me that doesn't want to be like George Bush declaring Mission Accomplished before it is. But I also do not want to miss an opportunity to offer praises and appreciation to God. So I am asking that you continue to pray for me, but include prayers of praise!!!

In Him,
Mimi Johnson

I wish to thank you all for your prayers, calls, cards and concerns during my recent illnesses. I appreciate you. I am very fortunate to be a member of our loving congregation. I believe our Lord is building more endurance and character in me, I thought I already was a character, but... I love you all!

Bill Farr

On behalf of my family I would like to thank everybody for their cards, calls, and kind comments of condolences. Dawn, Lisa, Rebecca, and I felt Bob's service was beautiful. All thanks to Pastor Drew, Millie, Janice, Roy, Karlene, John Allison, Dr. Baldwin, and John Craig, Andy and especially Pat Thompson. We thank each of you for your contribution to our memories.

Friends in Christ.
Love, Barbara McTigue.

Congregational Care

x2

The big news from your Congregational Care team is Wednesday nights. Beginning Wednesday, February 11th, we begin our once a month potluck. There will be no Wednesday night meals on the other Wednesday nights in February. The cost of the meals, utilities and the labor intensive process could no longer be justified for the number of people attending. Each month will have a theme, February will be Valentines Day. The dates for the remaining months will be March 11th, April 15th and May 13th, which will be the last one until mid-September. The themes for these months will be announced in the monthly newsletter.

The Congregational Care Team will continue to meet the third Monday of each month through June at 7pm in the Church Library. The Team is planning multiple activities for the spring, and will be announced in newsletters and Sunday bulletins. Stayed tuned.

The greeting card ministry has sent over 240 cards to FPC members for birthdays, anniversaries and special occasions.

The first Church wide Christmas card was sent to all members that were on the Church roster. We encourage everyone to make sure your information and all family members information is complete and accurate in the Church roster.

The Congregational Care Team looks forward to continuing to serve our congregation in many ways.

Your Congregational Care Team

Youth



Sunday February 1st is Super Bowl Sunday, but more importantly it is Youth Sunday. This is one of my favorite Sundays because you get a chance to see how amazing our students are at this church.

This year the youth and I are so excited about what God is going to do through this church and through them. I don't want to give too much away, but we are going to need your help. The youth want this whole church to join them on the mission field this summer, right here in Griffin!! This summer is going to change so many lives! I can't wait for these students to tell you all about it!! See you on Sunday!!!!

Hip, Hip, Hurray!

February Anniversaries

2/1/1964 - Tom & Donna McGurk
2/4 - Sowah & Cindie Simmonds

CELEBRATION

First Presbyterian Church of Griffin will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary Sunday, November 27, 2016!! Now is the time to begin planning; to look back to celebrate our founding, history and ministry to the community; and to rejoice in the future with renewed vision, hope, confidence and commitment.

If you are interested in serving on the Anniversary Committee; have pictures or articles from past church events; or, have celebration ideas, please contact Debbie Hammond (770-228-6055).

Stay connected with each other

www.fpcgriffin.org

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

February Birthdays

- 1 - John Craig
- 3 - Lynn Mitchell
- 3 - Lisa Singley
- 4 - Cindie Hayward-Simmonds
- 6 - Gary Hollums
- 8 - Larry Horton
- 8 - Jan Rogers
- 9 - Megan Hamilton
- 11 - Wayne Griggs
- 12 - George Kirby
- 12- Seth Norris
- 14 - Jackson Elling
- 15 - Jack Singley
- 16 - Mary Frances Harwell
- 20 - Diane Gordon
- 21 - Wayne Bailey
- 22 - Anna Johnson
- 22 - Garrett Johnson
- 22 - Louise Upole
- 27 - Tom McGurk
- 26 - Ashley Moran
- 28 - Darren Norris
- 29 - Bonnie Pfrogner

Music Ministry



SPECIAL PRESENTATION!!!

As part of our worship experience during the Lenten season, we will be presenting the play, "**Twelve Seats at the Table**" on March 25 at 6:00 p.m. This play is inspired by da Vinci's painting, "The Last Supper" depicting the upper room during the last Passover meal celebrated by Jesus and His disciples before the crucifixion. Each disciple tells how he was chosen by Jesus and how each life has been changed by his walk with the Lord. Although each had his own vision of what the Lord's purpose was on earth and in spite of their doubts and fears, they chose to follow Jesus.

We still need some of the parts filled, so please say "yes" when asked to participate or just let me know you're interested. Several members of the former cast have graciously agreed to be that disciple again. It doesn't take a lot of rehearsal time as the play is in monologue form. No singing involved in this presentation.

CHANCEL CHOIR
HANDBELL CHOIR

Speaking of singing, the **Chancel Choir** is rehearsing music for the Easter season. Are membership in the choir is growing as we welcomed Lisa Carcamo to the alto section in January. If you enjoy singing, please consider joining the choir. Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 7:30, when there is a Wednesday night church supper, and at 7:00 when there is no supper.

Now from the **Handbell Choir**, here is a special invitation to anyone who might be interested in playing the handbells. Our rehearsals are on Monday evenings at 5:30 in the music office which is located at the end of the children's wing. If you can count, we can teach you to play the handbells. We need at least 11 ringers to cover the three octaves of bells that we play. If you are interested in joining the handbell choir, please come on Monday at 5:30 p.m.

Sylvia Hollums

and...

February Session Meeting

Feb. 22 after worship

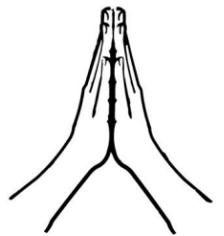
Please email your ministry team minutes to millie@fpcgriffin.org by Thursday, 2/19 at noon.

Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2015 have arrived. They are in the narthex.

Please stop by and take yours home with you.

They have a new design this year. Check it out!



Prayer Walks During Lent

Beginning the first Sunday of Lent, February 22nd, there will be prayer walks after church each Sunday. Meet Ina Jones or Pastor Drew in the Narthex to pray for our Lenten x2 mission and more.

Happy Valentine's Day

ECO=A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians Core Values

You have seen the Core Values of ECO listed in the bulletin most weeks. In the next four or more newsletters, there will be a couple of values listed and scripture to support that value. It is hoped that you will read them carefully and prayerfully consider how they affect our lives.

Jesus-shaped Identity:

We believe Jesus Christ must be at the center of our lives and making disciples of Jesus at the core of our ministry.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him." John 14:6-7

Additional: Colossians 1: 15-20

Biblical Integrity:

We believe the Bible is the unique and authoritative Word of God, which teaches all that is necessary for faith and life. The prominence of God's Word over our lives shapes our priorities, and the unrivaled authority of the Bible directs our actions to be in concert with Christ's very best for our lives.

All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 2:12

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. Psalms 119:105

Jesus said, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." Matthew 7:24

All scripture is from NIV

Denominational Update

Dear First Presbyterians,

We have good news! We had a very good return on our surveys, with some 74% of them returned to date. Although we do not get to see them per se, the Presbytery office says that it is clear to them that "the church really is united" in our desire to leave PCUSA and join ECO. There was only one member who expressed a desire to remain in PCUSA.

Presbytery is ready to move forward with our process. The Session is working on next steps, including the appointment of a Special Committee of the Congregation, to negotiate the terms of our dismissal with our property. There will be some financial information to get together. Then, we hope to meet with the Presbytery PET team as early as February to work out the details.

We have truly been blessed by our God! Let's keep on praying that things continue to go well, and let's keep staying focused on our God given mission daily. Remember, we are the Body of Christ in Griffin!

For the Session,

Art Hammond
Clerk of Session

Pray for the new session

Janice Aiken	Art Hammond
Joe Bailey	Wendi Kirby
Lou Baldwin	Marion Musser
Sid Esary	Jim Skinner
Bill Farr	Roger Sons
Lou Geerlings	Charlotte Thacker
Bob Gordon	Doug Tingle
	Roy Villers

x2

FPE

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Be Involved

Mission Outreach

Our mission opportunity this month is

x2 challenge

See the article inside for more information.

Women of the Church Bible Study

Monday, February 2 at 10:15 am

Scriptures to read and study are
2 Corinthians 2:14-17 & 6:14-7:1.

All ladies are invited..
Hope to see you there.