

First NEWS

Presbyterian Church

February 2016

Pastor Drew's Views

175 Years

First Presbyterian Church of Griffin was founded on November 27, 1841. Rev. Henry L. Deane, Stated Supply, preached the first sermon. It is my honor to continue preaching 175 years later!

This year, we celebrate the legacy of faith, service and mission that our church fathers and mothers have passed on to us. Think of it as a torch that they carried faithfully. Now, it is our turn to carry it faithfully and preserve it for generations to come.

Our newly constituted 175th Anniversary Celebration Team has been hard at work sifting through records, pictures and old boxes. They have also been prayerfully planning our celebration. I hope you will plan to join us for Celebration Sunday. It will be 175 years to the day on November 27, 2016. It will be a lot of fun, but also moving to consider what God has done through FPC Griffin through all the years.

The eyes struck me recently as I looked at the old photos. I felt the old preachers and members looking right at me. I saw the hopes and dreams for this church in their eyes. I see that same look in your eyes. May God give us grace and strength to faithfully carry the torch on from here.

Blessings,

Pastor Drew

Philippians 1:3-6

Happy Valentine's Day

175th Anniversary Celebration

Women of the Church

Our church history documents that the Women of the Church have always been a vital part of the church. The Woman's Auxiliary organized in 1924 and had what we would term an Executive Committee (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Historian) and Cause (Committee) Secretaries, including Secretary of Literature, Secretary of Home Missions, Secretary of Foreign Missions, Secretary of Social Activities, Secretary of Spiritual Life, and Pastor's Aide. All the women of the church were invited to join a Circle, which met monthly for Bible study. Church, missions and community needs were discussed at the regular monthly meetings.

Upon the death of a member of the Woman's Auxiliary, a tribute was written and presented at the monthly meeting. On February 21, 1944, Mrs. W. S. Harden wrote of the death of Mrs. Edmonia Page Bledsoe, a beloved member of the church and for whom the Bledsoe Sunday School room is named.

"On January 19th, 1944, there departed from this life Mrs. Edmonia Page Bledsoe and in passing the Griffin Presbyterian Church and the community at large suffered a loss that is irreparable.

To those of us who knew and loved Mrs. Bledsoe and enjoyed the priceless privilege of her friendship a fulsome eulogy would harshly [be] out of tune with the modesty of her nature.

Death itself, to her, was the wider opening to the door that had been opening more and more through all her life and never was shut. She left the door ajar for you and me and looking after her we see 'The glory shining through the cleft'.

Mrs. Bledsoe had lived eighty-seven years when God called her home. More than twenty of these years was spent in Griffin and during that time she taught a Bible class in our own church. To those of us who were privileged to sit under her teaching during those years we could not help but recognize in her a woman of keen intellect, remarkable memory and deep spirituality.

She often said she had been a teacher and student of God's word for more than forty years. Her keen insight into the Scriptures, her strong reliance on the Holy Spirit to teach her that she might teach others, made her an outstanding example of God's ability to use one person in the work of His kingdom. The lives she touched and influenced during her forty years of teaching the Bible are better and richer lives because of her influence.

She was a devoted mother, God having given her four sons to bless her life. Three of those sons were taken before she was. But the one remaining and a grandson whom she raised, enjoyed all the love and protecting care that only a mother can give. During the last years of her life she presided over a lovely home, built for her by her son and that home was not only an attractive place to go but a place where one might take their difficulties, knowing that she was ever ready to give spiritual insight into material problems.

Mrs. Bledsoe enjoyed life but was ever looking forward to that glad and happy time when she should be with her Lord, whose coming she talked so much about. During a recent illness, when she was in the hospital, she told her friends not to pray that she should get well, but she felt that she had lived here more than three score years and ten and was only waiting for God to call her and to hear that 'Well done thou good and faithful servant, Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord'."

A Blast from the Past

If you have a copy of the annual reports given in 1995 and 1996 (covering the years 1994 and 1995), please let Millie or Pat Brown know. We would like to borrow them to facilitate compiling the church history.

Missional focus for February

Jesus said "Go!" so we go, "Feed!" so we feed, "Make disciples" so we make disciples in His Name. The church is a hospital for sinners and a launching pad for missional service in our community and "to the ends of the earth".

Haiti Mission Trip

Haiti Mission Trip Team:

Pastor Drew

Pat Brown

Michael & Wendy Biddle

Our team will partner with another from FPC Douglasville (ECO). The trip will be June 4-10 with Haiti Outreach Ministries. We will be doing construction and ministry with special needs kids and families in the community. Please pray.



Openings on the Missions and Outreach Team

The team has openings on the committee if you are interested in this important function of our church which includes annually evaluating all the missions we support, updating the missional handbook, planning with other churches in our community the annual family event and parade, encouraging participation in the missions of our community, developing programs to promote the Good News of Jesus Christ, etc. Please join us. We meet the first Monday of each month at the church at 11 a.m.

Soup Kitchen

We are scheduled to volunteer at the Abundant Life Soup Kitchen Tuesday, February 16th from 10:30 - 1
Collecting beef, cheese and hot dogs on 2/7 and 2/14 to bring.
Sign ups will be in the Narthex.

Operation Christmas Child

Savvy shoppers know that they can impact more children around the world for eternity by looking for shoebox items throughout the year. Check out our packing guide for the suggested item of the month. You can use this guide to help put together shoebox gifts that are sure to bless and delight boys and girls

For February, shop for Dental Hygiene Items (Due to customs regulations, toothpaste must have an expiration date of at least six months after National Collection Week.)

(January was hats, scarves, and gloves.)

Operation Christmas Child

You can go to this website for more information:

<http://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/year-round-packing-ideas>

Franklin Graham Prayer Rally

Franklin Graham will hold a prayer rally as part of his Decision America Tour on Wednesday, February 10th at noon in Liberty Plaza, Atlanta. If you are interested in joining Pastor Drew, contact the church office.

Congregational Care

February Potluck

Our monthly potluck will be on Wednesday, February 10th in the Activity Center at 6 p.m. The church will provide bread, crackers, and drinks. Please bring soup and/or a dessert to share. Signups will be in the narthex. Afterwards, join us for a brief Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary.



The Congregational Care team would like to say "A BIG THANK YOU " to everyone who helped set up before and helped clean up after the last Wednesday night potluck. It helped make the whole process a real fellowship opportunity for everyone who attended. The CC Team appreciates everyone's effort. Looking forward to seeing you all this month, Your CC Team



We are checking and double checking our roster for the new First Presbyterian pictorial directory to make sure all of the information we have is correct. It is our goal to have the new pictorial directory as close to perfect as we can get it. The expected completion time is mid-March.

The second rough draft has been mailed to us and we are anxiously awaiting its arrival!

If you have joined the church since the middle of October, or weren't able to have your picture made when the photographer was here, please contact Janice Aiken (770-227-6096) about getting your photo and information into this directory. We want to include everyone!

Watch for these upcoming events:

Golf Tournament
Bullets & Barbecue
Ladies' Tea

Join us for coffee fellowship each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m.
Classes begin at 10 a.m.

We serve in January

Children's Message

February 7 - Sid Esary
February 14 - Wendi Kirby
February 21 - Drew Elling
February 28 - Ashley Moran

Ushers

Darren Norris, Capt.
Sharon Norris
Tom McGurk
Donna McGurk
Bill Baldwin, Alt.

Communion Servers February 14th

Sid Esary, Capt.
Jim Skinner
Andy Musser
Bonnie Pfrogner
Bill Day
Chip Reahard

Communion will be by intinction

2s and 3s Nursery

February 7 - Vince & Karen Kiley
February 14 - Christo & Becki Grobbelaar
February 21 - Bob & Roi Bugg
February 28 - Joe & Jane Bailey

Elder in Charge

Doug Tingle

Important Dates

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 - 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
22 - Macy Pippin
27 - Tom McGurk
26 - Ashley Moran
28 - Darren Norris
29 - Bonnie Pfrogner

Communion

We will not have communion on February 7th, but it will be served on the **first Sunday of Lent**, which is February 14th.

February Anniversaries

2/1/1964 - Tom & Donna McGurk
2/4 - Sowah & Cindie Simmonds
2/7/1998 - Bill & Mary Johnson
2/20 - Michael & Maggie Rockholt

February Session Meetings

Prayer Meeting
February 14th at 9:00 am.
Everyone is invited to attend.

Stated Session Meeting
February 28th after worship

Congregational Meeting

A congregational meeting has been called for **February 21st** for the purpose of congregational review of church indebtedness.

Christian Education



Church-wide Memory Verse for February

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love.
Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.
1 John 4:16

New Sunday School Class Beginning February 7

There will be a new Sunday School class opportunity starting on February 7, 2016. We will be studying and discussing the book, "The Air I Breathe" by Louie Giglio.

"Where Do You Worship?"

Not everyone may frequent the church on the corner, but we each have a place of worship. For some, it's at the office. For others, before the mirror. Still others, on the basketball court. You were created to worship! So you naturally find a place to do it. But to worship anything less than God robs both Him and us. It's at the foot of the cross where we reel, trying to comprehend how a holy God could chase us down with kindness and redeem us from an eternity of futile gods. In this newly revised and refreshed edition of the original "The Air I Breathe," you'll find your sense of worship increasing beyond church walls or a Sunday routine. Soon all of life becomes your delighted response to God!"

I look forward to a great class!!

New Membership Class

The next Membership Class will be Sunday, February 7th at 9:30 a.m. in the C.E. office. If interested, contact Pastor Drew.

Youth

We are now entering the month of Love. I must admit that I LOVE what God is doing in my life, our church, and in the lives of our students!

Our students got to experience a movement of God! It happened at a conference that we attended right before the end of the year. During one of the sessions, I got to experience the largest number of students I have ever seen come to receive Christ. Around 800 students out of 7,500 people came down!! Praise God!! I am so excited that our students got to be a part of getting to watch God move in the lives of their peers. God is truly moving in this generation!! So thank you, congregation, for allowing me to be here on staff and for your contributions to the youth budget which makes going to these events possible. You are investing in eternity!!

It is your investment in the future and eternal things that has allowed this church and these students to spend their lives spreading the gospel. This church and its students have always gone above and beyond to reach Griffin and also grow in the knowledge of him who has made all this possible: Jesus. So again this year, I am asking you to pray about giving above and beyond to BaseCamp and Sports Camp on Youth Sunday February 7th. On that Sunday you will get to hear from our students how God is using your generosity to change a generation for the gospel. I hope that you can join us that Sunday. See you there!!

Worship

Lent Schedule:

Ash Wednesday 2/10
First Sunday of Lent 2/14 with Communion
Palm Sunday 3/20
Maundy Thursday with Twelve Men at the Table 3/24
Good Friday 3/25
Easter Sunday 3/27

Scout Sunday

Sunday, Feb. 14th, will be Scout Sunday.

**Worship Ministry Team will meet
Monday, Feb. 1st, at noon at the church.**

Anyone interested in being a greeter for Sunday mornings please contact Bonnie Pfrogner

etc.....



A huge "thank you" for the master mind, George Kirby, who built a closet within a closet! You all have got to see it. Now our Christmas wreaths have a, somewhat, climate controlled home that is not in the attic. Also great thanks to Roger Soons who was George's right hand man!

The Facilities Team

PYF Super Bowl Party

It has become a tradition to celebrate Youth Sunday on Super Bowl Sunday. That's why every year students stand in the back with soup pots...for the Youth Sunday: Soup-er Bowl of Caring. Now it is all making sense!! This year the Daniels have been gracious enough to host the PYF Super Bowl Party. The party will begin at 6:15pm at the Daniels', and students need to bring some football food for the party!! We wrap things up around halftime, so make plans to head back home after that. Please contact Seth Brown if you need directions or any other information.

We have several members and friends of our church who are living in Assisted Living or are primarily confined to their homes. Please remember them in your prayers and/or with a card or phone call.

Bess Mills
666 Brook Cr.
Griffin, GA 30224

Anne Mixon
Brightmoor Assisted Living
3223 Newnan Rd.
Griffin, GA 30223

Tommy & Mollie Watson
1401 Macon Rd.
Griffin, GA 30224

Wayman and Freddie Hutson
1401 Macon Rd
Griffin, GA 30224

Marty Lang
200 Rockaway Road, Apt. 232
Peachtree City, GA 30269
MartyLang837@comcast.net

Mike Wiley
Brightmoor Nursing Home
3223 Newnan Rd.
Griffin, GA 30223

Louise Upole
Brightmoor Assisted Living
3223 Newnan Rd
Griffin, GA 30223



1349 Macon Road
Griffin, GA 30224

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Be Involved

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 175th ANNIVERSARY NOVEMBER 27, 2016

Work has begun to start the celebration of our 175th anniversary this November. Please let Debbie Hammond know if you have any pictures, stories, special music, or any ideas about what needs to be remembered.

This is a special time in our church history to look back at our roots and look forward to our future.

Women of the Church Bible Study

The Women of the Church will meet February 8 at 10:15 AM in the Fellowship Class Room. We will be studying Lesson 6 found on page 49 of The Study Book. Scripture to be discussed is Amos 5:21-24.

Bring your Study Book
and your Bible.
All women are invited.