

First NEWS

Presbyterian Church

January 2016

Pastor Drew's Views: Going the "Second Mile"

Did you know that Roman law required a Jew, if asked, to carry a soldier's pack one mile? Jews hated this law and marked the distance from their home in all directions at exactly one mile, no more. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus shocked His listeners by telling them, "*if asked to go one mile, go with him two miles*".

When I worked at Chick-fil-a, "going the extra mile" was taught. The philosophy is literally rooted in the teachings of Jesus. We got excited about it. It was fun to see a customer's reaction when I served them in a way they didn't expect. One thing I love about our church is this "second mile" attitude. I can see you all carrying your ministry packs with energy, enthusiasm and generosity. That is a sign of spiritual growth and maturity.

Many of you have expressed interest in making a second mile financial gift to the church over and above your regular tithe. As a result, this year, the Session would like to offer some specific opportunities for you to do just that if you feel led. Recent examples include donations to pay for the refurbishment of stained glass windows, additional lighting in the Narthex, and much needed voluntary work on the exterior of the building. I have included a list of current priorities below for you to prayerfully consider. Beginning in January, a binder will be kept in the church office with quotes and estimates for you to look over.

Thanks again for your generosity of time, talents and treasure in and through our church. It will be great to see the facility transform in the years ahead, but our mission and ministry will also multiply as we "go the extra mile" in faith.

Ready to carry my pack with you,

Pastor Drew

Philippians 1:3-6

Current priorities for facility improvement:

Replacing gutters and downspouts
Parking lot repairs
Heating and air upgrades
Organ renovation
Water fountain repair (Activities Center)
Church bus renovation and repair

Happy New Year!
How will God use you in 2016?

Congregational Care

Happy New Year!

2015 was a busy year for the CC Team. 2016 looks like even a better year for the team to serve our wonderful Congregation. Janice Aiken will be taking over leadership of the CC Team in 2016. Our Church is blessed to have someone like Janice in that position. The CC Team needs your help, volunteer to help Janice and the other team members in serving our Congregation. If you have organizational skills, helping with Wednesday potlucks and special occasion receptions can put those skills to good use. If you are creative, Diane and Ruth, could use your help with the Greeting Card Ministry. Karlene could use help with the monthly special needs meal program. Any skill, or desire to care for or about members here at First Presbyterian Church of Griffin, are needed to help the CC Team do even a better job in 2016. Please contact Janice Aiken, 770-227-6096, to volunteer., The CC Team usually meets the 3rd Monday, at 7pm, in the Church. Hope several of you will join the CC Team in the New Year.

My last meeting as Co-Chairperson will be Jan. 18, 2016.

Roy Villers
Co-Chairperson CC Team

Church Directory

The first draft is in the last stages before being sent to Color Craft. Computer issues and the Holidays have put us a few days behind. We expect the first draft to be returned by Color Craft mid- January for review. The final draft should be at Color Craft by the first of February, and the Directories should be available by Mid March or the first of April.



January Potluck

Our monthly potluck will be on
Wednesday, January 13th in the Activity Center at 6 p.m.

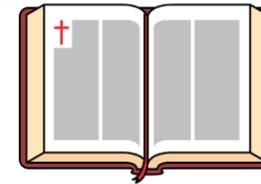
Join us for coffee fellowship each Sunday morning at 9:45 a.m.
Classes begin at 10 a.m.

175th Anniversary Celebration

The 175th anniversary committee will meet on Wednesday, January 6 in the library at 11:30 am. Everyone is welcome to join us.

We have some old FPC cookbooks that we are giving away in exchange for a suggested donation of \$5. Any proceeds from this will help pay for our anniversary activities.

Christian Education



Church-wide Memory Verse for January

There is surely a future hope for you, and your hope will not be cut off.

Proverbs 23:18

Session

Our new tagline

Session unanimously approved a new tagline for our church: *Know Love, Be Love*. The tagline will appear on t-shirts, car stickers, and more. The idea is for it to be an attention grabber for members of our community. It invites the reader to want to find out more. It's not too "churchy". There's a lot of confusion about what "love" really is in the world today, but we know love. He is Jesus Christ. It's our job to teach the world who love really is by being love to everyone we meet.



ECO National Gathering

Please pray for the ECO National Gathering January 26-28 in Los Angeles.
Pastor Drew and Todd Thacker will be commissioners.

Dear Church Friends,

Thank you so much for all of the prayers, cards, and food while I was under the weather. It was so appreciated by both of us.

Thanks, too, for the show of appreciation for what we do.

Love, Joyce

Special Thanks

Dear Church family,

You overwhelmed us with support in a difficult time. Thank you. To give us food at a time when most of you had your own families gathered for meals -- was a true blessing for us. It had to have been a sacrifice for many of you. We so appreciate it.

We cherish your prayers and we are thankful for all of you.

Covered in grace,
Ina for the Jones Family

“ ‘...The blessing of the Lord be upon you (all)...’ ”

Dear Pastor Drew and Church Members,

Thank you very much for the arrangements and reception made for my brother, Francois de Bruin's, Memorial Service. We appreciate your love and kindness.

Merry Christmas!

God's grace!

Karen Grobbelaar and family

Missional focus for January

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".

Christmas Dinner for the Community

This issue is going to press before our Christmas Dinner has been served. However, I am filled with positive feelings about its success. God is good, as many unexpected blessings are appearing. This is really a twist as I'll say thank you before to each and every person involved in any way with serving our King on his birthday. I'm sure by the time you read this newsletter you will have heard the report on our dinner. Friends in Christ, Barbara

It was a success -- Be Surprised!

Food Pantry Contributions

Our December contribution to the food pantry included:

- 17 boxes of cereal
- 27 canned goods
- 1 bag of rice
- 1 bag of grits
- 2 boxes of noodles
- 1 jar of tea
- 2 packages of cookies
- 2 jars of peanut butter
- 1 bag of chips

Christmas Gift for Jesus

Thank you to everyone who pitched in for our Christmas Gift for Jesus this year! We were able to help provide emergency housing, refugee relief, and a household water filter, prevent human trafficking, and equip a missionary hospital, along with purchasing several animals, including goats and baby chicks.

Quotes from our mission partners:

"The program currently serves 245 children in five local elementary schools—Anne Street, Atkinson, Moore, Jackson Road and Beaverbrook. 'We do this every week that school is in session. The schools we serve are the poorest areas of the county', said Joe Walker, pointing out that each backpack contains two meals and a snack for Saturday and Sunday." – Backpack Food for Kids

"Thank you for the gift of \$581.76 to Griffin Area Habitat for Humanity. The money will be used for material for the house at 462 Hammond Drive in Griffin." – Executive Director Mark Staples

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.

CPR Training

We will have the next and last CPR training in January until next year, date not determined. Most likely it will be an evening session 6-8 pm at the church. You will be trained in Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the use of the defibrillator we have on site in the church. The cost is about \$35 and leads to an American Heart Association certificate good for two years. Please contact Bill Farr at wmfarr@bellsouth.net or 770-584-9727 to get on the list.

FPC's Missions Fair 2016

Missions and Outreach is planning a Missions Fair on Sunday, January 31, 2016. Each of the 20 missions we support that are local, regional or international have been invited and we expect a great turnout. I hope you will plan to join us in the activities building at 9:00 a.m. for a free breakfast. Meet the missions' spokesmen/or women who will be able to answer questions and provide literature about what it is they are currently doing. We support these missions with 10% of your tithes that you provide the church. We look forward to seeing you there. Thank you for your support! If you have questions, please ask Bill Farr, Chair, Missions and Outreach Team.

Looking ahead....



FPC Griffin is going to Haiti!

We are partnering with FPC Douglasville (ECO) to go to Haiti in our 175th year. There's no better way to celebrate than to serve. The trip will be for all ages (15+). Haiti Outreach Ministries will be our host. They do medical and construction trips. We will be going next June 4-10, 2016. Trips cost around \$1,000. Please start to pray about going to "the ends of the earth" for Jesus!

We serve in January

Children's Message

January 3 - Diane Gordon
January 10 - Ina Jones
January 17 - Cindy Baynham
January 24 - Drew Elling
January 31 - Seth Brown

Ushers

Joe Bailey, Capt.
Jane Bailey
Louis Thacker
Barbara McTigue
Alt. John Allison

Communion Servers

January 10

Lou Baldwin, Captain
Bonnie Pfrogner
Janice Aiken
Joe Bailey
Roy Villers
Roger Soons
Stewart Esary
Gary Hollums
Chip Reahard
Andy Musser



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2s and 3s Nursery

January 3 - John & Bryan Aldridge
January 10 - Doug & Emelie Tingle
January 17 - Janice Aiken & Jen Elling
January 24 - Bob & Diane Gordon
January 31 - Cheyenne Sewell & Sharon Stansberry

Elder in Charge

Lou Baldwin

Important Dates

January Birthdays

2 - Tom Hamilton
2 - Maggie Rockholt
4 - John Aldridge
7 - Jimmy Elling
10 - Kate Baynham
11 - Pat Thompson
12 - Seeley Esary
17 - Bill Farr
20 - Audrey Thacker
24 - Ivan Betz
27 - Brenda Huckaby
28 - Karen Kiley
30 - Lou Baldwin

January Anniversaries

1/5/1980 - Ernie & Pat Thompson
1/25/1945 - Jake & Camille Berry
1/30/1993 - David & Wendi Kirby

January Session Meeting

Stated Session Meeting
January 24th after worship
Prayer Meeting
January 10th at 9:00 am.
Everyone is invited to attend.

**We will celebrate
Communion on
Sunday, January 10.**

**The church office will be
closed on
Friday, January 1st.**

Annual Meeting January 31st

The Annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 31st after worship. All active members of First Presbyterian Church are asked to attend.

Baptism

On January 3rd we will celebrate the sacrament of baptism for Katy Crawford Esary.

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.

What 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 Bible Study will meet Monday, January 11, 2016, in the Fellowship Class Room at 10:15 am. We will be studying Lesson 5 beginning on page 41 of your Study Book. Please read Matthew 14:22-23, Please bring your Bible and your Study Book. Happy New Year to all. All women are invited.