

# First NEWS

Presbyterian Church

**March 2015**

## Pastor Drew's Views

### *Our Lenten Mission*

Lent is upon us. The first Sunday of Lent was February 22nd. People and churches observe the six weeks of Lent in a variety of ways. Some will give up something like sweets or fast food. Going without can be a powerful reminder of what Jesus Christ gave up for us. The physical hunger we experience can be an effective way to foster a spiritual hunger for the Lord. But instead of giving up something for Lent, many choose to add a spiritual practice or daily activity that will build up personal faith and ministry in the community. The church has a long tradition of practicing both.

As I have said in worship, I am calling us to add something very important this Lenten season. I am calling each of us to add at least two people (x2) to our fellowship at some point over the six weeks. Remember, we have a powerful fellowship because of who lives in and through us. Paul writes, "that power is like the working of His mighty strength, which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead". Did you catch that? The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is in us and in our fellowship. That's because God chose to make His dwelling in us. It's not the cloud, the burning bush or the Temple anymore. God now lives in you and me. So, when you speak to or invite someone you know to join us, you can have confidence because God's power is in your words and your actions in faith. He will also be in our sanctuary. Let's all give it a try and see what happens.

Each week, during Lent, I will be preaching a series called "Living the Cross Centered Life". There will be a clear gospel presentation made for seekers in addition to biblical teaching for more mature disciples. I will invite your x2 to commit their lives to Jesus Christ for the first time, or to recommit. First Presbyterian Church is a powerful place to be. Believe that and extend some invitations in faith. I also encourage you to follow up on those invitations and be intentional about getting your x2 here one way or another. Finally, I ask you to pray. Pray that lives will change forever. It's our all-church Lenten mission.

*Pastor Drew*

Philippians 1:3-6

**x2**

**Daylight Savings Time:** move clocks forward on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup>.

## Christian Education

### 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.

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 call.

### 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.

### Confirmation Sunday is on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

We are in need of sponsors who will donate funds to purchase leather bound study bibles for members of the Confirmation Class. If interested, contact Seth or Pastor Drew.

### Church-wide Memory Verse for March

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—  
and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—(Ephesians 2:8)



x2

## Opportunities to Serve in March

### Elder in Charge

Roger Soons

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

3/1 - Darren & Sharon Norris  
3/8 - Kyle & Johnna Johnson  
3/15 - Todd & Angela Thacker  
3/22 - John & Ruth Allison  
3/29 - Stewart & Allison Esary

### Communion Servers

#### March 1

Roger Soons, Capt.  
Lou Geerlings  
Charlotte Thacker  
Roger Soons  
Roy Villers  
Sid Esary  
Trey Jones  
Ralph Jones  
Kyle Johnson  
Eddie Huffman

### March Ushers

Russell Johnson, Capt.  
Todd Thacker  
Angela Thacker  
Christine Hamby  
Doug Brown, alternate

### Children's Message

3/1 - Diane Gordon  
3/8 - Ashley Moran  
3/15 - Drew Elling  
3/22 - Seth Brown  
3/29 - Sid Esary

**x2**

# Worship Ministry

## Plans for Easter are underway!

Easter lilies will again be available for purchase in memory or honor of loved ones and placed in the sanctuary on Easter Day. Instructions for purchase of lilies will appear in the Sunday bulletin on March 1.

The appropriate color shrouds will be placed on the cross in the sanctuary and outside during the Easter season.

Plan to attend the worship services during Easter week:

Maundy Thursday on April 2 will include communion.

Good Friday will be a service of music, scripture, private prayer, and communion by intinction.

Son Rise service will be lead by Seth and our youth and followed with a pancake breakfast prepared by them.

Easter Day at 11:00 will be the celebration of the Resurrection of our Lord and will include communion.

We hope to see you at as many of these worship services as possible.

## Lent calendar/communion dates

3/1 ..... Communion Sunday

3/8 .... Daylight Savings: move clocks 1 hour forward  
Saturday night

3/25..... "Twelve Seats at the Table" 6:00 p.m.

3/29 ... Palm Sunday  
Confirmation Sunday

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. breakfast following  
Easter Sunday with communion 11:00 a.m.

## 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. There will be a reception immediately following the presentation.

**Please join us!**

## MAINTENANCE REQUEST FORM

To assist the Facilities Ministry Team with maintenance planning, a Maintenance Request Form has been developed. When you observe an item that may require attention, please obtain a form in the church office, fill it out as completely as possible and give it to Millie Beverly. She will contact the Facilities Team or coordinate a call to a contractor if immediate attention is required. Please understand that not every item can be remedied immediately. It depends on whether we can correct the item with volunteer labor, if quotes will need to be obtained, as well as if there are sufficient funds available. This procedure will help us document maintenance issues and not have to try to remember what someone told us in the hallway.

# 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

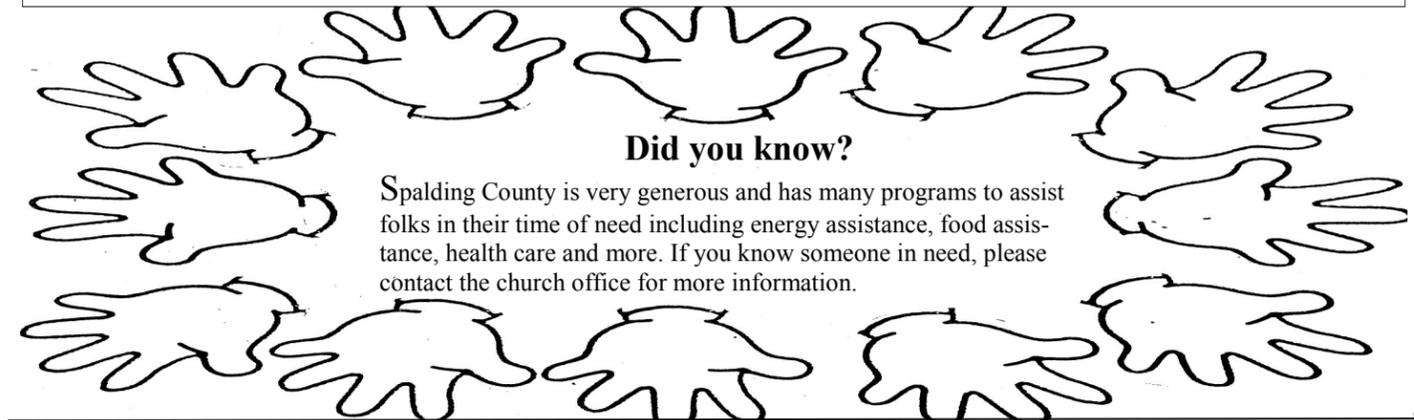
The next Facilities Committee meeting is Wednesday, March 11 at 4:00 pm.

# Missions & Outreach

x2

## March Missional Focus

**Spalding Samaritans** is a cooperative effort of area churches and individuals that was created by the Spalding Clergy Association in January, 2003 to responsibly address the numerous requests for financial assistance for utility bills in the Spalding county area. Spalding Samaritans is a 501c3 non-profit organization that has a board of nine members that meet monthly to oversee operation. It's also a volunteer based ministry that allows individuals and churches to pool resources (our primary funding), exercise careful stewardship, and extend care to "the stranger at the door" in the Name of Jesus. Brian McCartney will be at FPC on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to share more about this ministry and how you can get involved.



## Did you know?

Spalding County is very generous and has many programs to assist folks in their time of need including energy assistance, food assistance, health care and more. If you know someone in need, please contact the church office for more information.

## First Presbyterian Church – The Beginning

From the Centennial Historical Sketch by Eleanor Corbin Blanchard

November 27, 1841 the Presbyterian Church in the City of Griffin was organized and constituted. Rev. Henry L. Deane was the first Stated Supply. The First Report was sent to the Presbytery in April 1842:

- 6 Members present
- 2 Members added on examination
- 2 Members added on certificate

10 Total now in communion, 1842

Rev. Deane served as Stated Supply until the end of 1844. During his three-year ministry, the membership increased from six to thirty-eight.

In these early years, church services were held only once a month, but there were many prayer meetings. It was recorded that "Wednesday night before the fifth Sabbath in September, 1844, commenced a protracted meeting, attended by Rev. Daniel Ingles and other ministers. The Spirit of the Lord accompanied the word and a precious revival of religion commenced." Often a two-day meeting was held, beginning on Saturday morning and ending Sunday night. They were earnest and diligent in conducting the Lord's business.

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!

## Prayer Meeting

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

## March Session Meeting

March 22 after worship  
Please email your ministry team minutes to [millie@fpcgriffin.org](mailto:millie@fpcgriffin.org) by Thursday, 3/19 at noon.

# Youth

I recently read a book by K.P Yohannan titled Revolution In World Missions. In the book Yohannan talks about how indigenous missionaries are reaching Asia but need the western churches support to reach everyone in Asia. His plan of indigenous missionaries struck a chord with me. He basically spelled out that indigenous missionaries are those who not only live among those they are trying to reach, but they also live under the same conditions of those they are trying to share the gospel with. Here is where God really started to speak to me and my heart. He placed on my heart that I am and we are all indigenous missionaries to Griffin.

The Lent X2 challenge is the perfect time to start your life of missions to those around you, but don't stop there. Join us July 13th-17th at Sports Camp! It is the perfect indigenous mission outpost for you and your family. Bring your friends, family, neighbors to give back to Griffin through reaching kids for Christ. And through inviting them to give back, they will also get to hear and see the Gospel of Jesus in action. Sports is the vehicle...Jesus is the REASON.

Seth

# Congregational Care

The February pot luck was a great success. Seth did a super job with the newly wed game. Made for a fun evening of fellowship.

The dates for the remaining pot lucks are March 11th, St. Patrick's Day theme. New date for April. April 8th is the date for the pot luck, Spring theme. May 13th will be the last one for this spring. Pastor Drew and the Missions Team will have the program for that night.

Other events coming up, the Ladies Tea May 3rd, contact Janice Aiken or Karlene Hollender for more information. Palm Sunday will be a Breakfast for the new Confirmands, more information to follow. June 9th, Men's Breakfast at Sun City, all men welcome. Golfers will have a chance to play afterwards.

The greeting card ministry continues to grow. Anyone that knows of a member or family member that would like a card, please contact Roy Villers.

Your Congregational Care Team

x2

## New Members Class

Pastor Drew will teach a new member class on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> 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.

## Wednesday Night Potluck March 11<sup>th</sup>

Bring a dish to share and let's enjoy fellowship together. Bring a friend!

## Prayer Walks During Lent

Each Sunday in March after worship, meet Ina Jones, Alice Garrison and Pastor Drew in the Narthex to pray for our Lenten x2 mission and more.



Dear FPC Friends,

Thank you for all your kind expressions of love shown to me and my family during my recent surgeries and recuperation.

Thank you for the cards, phone calls, visits, meals and many prayers that have made this time of healing more manageable for all of us.

God is good! I look forward to worshipping with y'all again very soon!

With love and appreciation,

Jane Bailey

# Many Thanks

Thanks to the church family for all you have done.

The McLaren Family

## March Birthdays

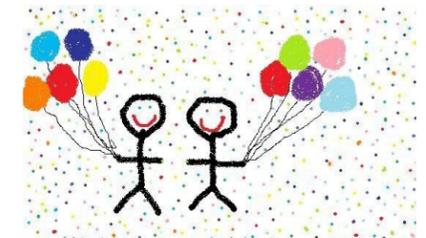
x2

- 1 - Sid Esary
- 2 - Mimi Johnson
- 2 - Lisa Carcamo
- 6 - Joe Harrell
- 7 - Laura Kirby
- 10 - Sheppard Brown
- 11 - Barron Dunn
- 22 - Marty Dunn
- 23 - Davidson Johnson
- 24 - Doug Brown
- 24 - Tori Jones
- 29 - Dianne Pinson
- 31 - Freddie Hutson

## March Anniversaries

- 3/5/1983 -Joe & Jane Bailey
- 3/24/1979 - Bill & Lou Baldwin

# CELEBRATIONS



## 175 years old??!!

**First Presbyterian Church of Griffin will be celebrating its 175<sup>th</sup> 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).

Don't forget to move your clocks forward one hour on Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> so that you will be on time for church Sunday, the 8th!



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,  
The Lord continues to bless us with a smooth departure process from PCUSA.

Presbytery received 9 more surveys and they all indicted a desire to leave. As a result of survey results, the Presbytery PET team has been given the go-ahead to obtain two appraisals on our property. These values will be the basis for negotiating a financial settlement for the property. Stewardship & Finance is gathering financial statements. Copies of all legal documents concerning the property have been put together. Members of the Session have met with both local banks concerning a mortgage to obtain settlement funds. Both banks are eager to help us and see no problem with making a proposal to us. We will take the best deal we can get. The amount we expect to pay continues in the \$250,000 range, based on the amounts paid by other churches, when they left PCUSA. We will be able to spread out the repayment over several years, to make the monthly payments manageable.

Next steps include receipt of the appraisals and bank proposals (hopefully by the end of the month), scheduling of a meeting between the PET team and our Special Committee of the Congregation (SCC) to work out an agreement, a congregational meeting to vote on approval of the agreement and lastly a vote at Presbytery. We are hopeful that Presbytery will vote on our agreement in its May meeting. The latest date we see would be the September Presbytery meeting, though we will push for May. ECO has already approved us, so once that Presbytery vote is taken, we will sign a mortgage note at the bank, hand Presbytery a check and begin our new life as an ECO congregation. We will keep you posted on progress as we reach these steps.

Please continue to pray for a successful conclusion to this process. The Session will be forming the SCC negotiating team soon to work out the terms of our departure. Please pray for these folks as well.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

For the Session,

Art Hammond  
Clerk



1349 Macon Road  
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## Be Involved

### Mission Outreach

Our mission opportunity this month is

x2

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. March 2, 2015.**

Scriptures to be studied are

**2 Corinthians 8:1-15.**

We are studying Lesson Seven found on page 61 of Study Book. Members are asked to bring 2 or more canned goods and a paper product to be taken to the local food pantry.