

# First NEWS

Presbyterian Church

*October 2015*

## ***Pastor Drew's Views: Easier Said Than Done!***

*But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. – Romans 8:25*

I want to thank everyone who made a suggestion in our church tagline survey. We got a lot of great ideas! That's a good thing. A tagline like "Just Do It" for Nike says a lot about who we are in just a few short words. The words are short, but they pack a punch.

A good church tagline ***is really not meant for us***. The idea is to connect with people who aren't with us yet, to make them think and to stir something inside that makes them want to know more. When we find ours, I believe it will do just that.

We haven't found our tagline yet, but it is coming. I can feel it. Seth and I have talked for hours about it. The Session has tossed ideas around too. We have also talked about it at leadership team meetings. I think it about it all the time, and I keep waiting for that "aha!" moment. It hasn't happened yet, but that's okay. None of the suggestions have set themselves apart as the clear cut favorite. I believe that's because God is saying wait. It probably won't be wait for long, but we're not there yet. Please pray for God to give us that "aha" moment. That's when we'll make the new t-shirts! See you in the mission field!

*Pastor Drew*

Philippians 1:3-6

### **Preaching Plan**

**October 4 (World Communion Sunday)**

*What is Communion?* 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

**October 11 New Series begins:**

*In The Beginning: A Look at Genesis 1-3*



## **SAVE THE DATE**

**It is finally here!**

Pictorial directory picture day is coming.

Mark your calendar now for this special day. The photographer will be here on October 30 & 31, then take activity pictures on Nov. 1.

So.....

**SAVE THE DATE !**

# Stewardship & Finance

May we all prayerfully seek God's guidance during our Stewardship Campaign and the tremendous future service that Jesus has planned for his disciples at  
 First Presbyterian Church of Griffin.  
 "...for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:7

In Christ,  
 Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team  
 Bailey, Bugg, Esary, Hollums, and Skinner

# Congregational Care

**Wednesday Night Potluck Samaritan's Purse** will be here on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup> for the potluck supper to kick off our 175 shoebox challenge. Yep, that's right! In honor of our 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016, the challenge is on to put 175 shoeboxes together for Samaritan's Purse. We can do it! Or God can—through us! Bring enough food for your family (plus a little extra!) and share supper with your church family.

On the **5th DAY** God created the animals on Earth. Here is your opportunity to visit some of these animals (fishes) that God created.  
 Seniors (you know who you are) here is a wonderful chance to visit the GA Aquarium for only \$35.00. The price includes your ticket, lunch and transportation. Please let Roy (770-617-4541) or Janice (770-227-6096) know so that we may pick a date in October or November.

## Heads up everyone.



Beginning in early October you may be receiving a call with the church phone number and caller ID. Please answer the phone. Color Craft, the folks doing the Pictorial Directory will begin calling to set up appointments for taking pictures for the new directory. The dates will be October 30 and 31. Activity page pictures will be taken on November 1.

As soon as you see a sign up sheet in the Narthex, please pick a date. Color Craft will call to set up a time. We need everyone's picture and updated information. There will be an updated church roster in the back of the directory. When you get your picture taken, please fill out the information card completely. If for some reason you cannot make one of these dates, please call Roy Villers at 770-617-4541 or Janice Aiken at 770-227-6096. We will have pages where those away at College or in the Military can get there pictures in the directory, and their names will also appear in the roster if they update their information.

Thank you,  
 Your Congregational Care Team

## Christmas in our Jammies Dec. 5th at 6:30 pm

Children, get ready for our Christmas program! On Oct. 7 (6:30-7) and Oct. 21 (5-6), come in costume for practice and pictures. We will also practice Nov. 11 & Dec. 2 from 5-6. Church family, plan to attend on Dec. 5th!

## What happened to our weekly Wednesday night program?

We are currently taking a sabbatical from weekly meals and classes on Wednesdays. We are currently praying about what the best plan is moving forward in ECO. Please help us pray. Also, suggestions welcome.

# Missions & Outreach

## GOOD NEWS! GREAT JOY!

November 2015 First Presbyterian Church of Griffin begins celebrating its 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. To kick off our celebration, our goal for Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes is to turn in 175 boxes!! We can meet this goal knowing that each gift "opens hearts to faith in Jesus".

After the potluck supper October 7, Yvonne Chumbley, Operation Christmas Child Church Relations Team Member, will have a slide presentation and talk to us about packing the shoebox and the blessing of this gift to children throughout the world.



Boxes and brochures will be available that night. For information right away, go to [www.samaritanspurse.org/occ](http://www.samaritanspurse.org/occ).

Collection Week is November 16-23. Dedication Sunday is November 15. Remember: What goes into the box is...FUN! What comes out is...ETERNAL!!

**One focus for October is Square Foot Ministry.** Square Foot is a growing local home building and repair ministry. "Our goal is to employ God's gifts of resources, talents and wisdom for the purpose of providing shelter and home repairs for the needy in Fayette County and surrounding areas. We establish these goals through the volunteers of all faiths and walks of life coming together with a heart of service and compassion for others."



**October 3<sup>rd</sup>** will be a service day with Square Foot Ministry from 8:30 – 4 p.m. No experience needed. Lunch provided. The work will be home exterior at 107 Blanton Avenue; Griffin, GA (just off N. Hill Street). Sign up in the Narthex at church or call the office.

**We will also have another Rushton's Hope day on Saturday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>.** We will meet there at 10 a.m. and serve until around noon. We will talk to folks, share the gospel, prepare and serve a meal and more. If you would like to try something new or stretch yourself, sign up in the Narthex or talk to Pastor Drew.

## Thanksgiving Meal at St. John's Lutheran

St. John's Lutheran Church in Griffin will prepare and deliver about 1400 Thanksgiving meals on Thanksgiving Day this year. Work starts at 8 a.m. and all the meals are delivered by noon. If you are interested in serving, contact the church office.



**Thank You, LORD!**

## Christmas Dinner at First Presbyterian

Our church will do the same thing for the community on Christmas Day again this year. Barbara McTigue is the coordinator. Again, if interested, contact the church office.

## Quotes from our mission partners:

"The World Bank defines extreme poverty as living on less than \$1 per day. Many people living in extreme poverty were born into an environment where systematic barriers have prevented them from making decisions and taking action to significantly improve their lives. After generations of living in extreme poverty, they become powerless to affect significant change toward a healthy, flourishing, thriving life. "Flourishing" or "thriving" cannot properly happen apart from Christ. To give people food and water, medicine and jobs, but never introduce them to a relationship with Jesus, will not ultimately lead to thriving communities. Every act we undertake must be bathed in the explanation of why we are doing it, and aim to establish a vibrant community of faith in Jesus who will continue to pursue gospel flourishing long after we leave. The deeds make no sense without the Word of God; the Word of God sounds hollow without the Deeds." – Mike Reinsel from Rivers of the World (R.O.W.)

# Facilities

## Silent Stewardship

Have you ever wondered who cleans the gutters or fixes the leaking toilet? How does the air conditioning magically turn on for non-routine events? Have you noticed that the building is a darker brown or that the sidewalks aren't black? Do the shrubs look a little shorter than they were a few weeks ago? Who plants the flowers in the path welcoming all to our church? All of these tasks are done by volunteers who help the Facilities Ministry Team maintain the church buildings and grounds. Their donation of time and talent saves the congregation considerable money that would otherwise have to come out of the annual operating budget.

Improvements were made to the office air conditioning and some new lights appeared in the Narthex. Three of the stained glass windows seem to be missing but have been sent out for much needed repair before they are just a pile of colored glass. Various members of the congregation have graciously stepped forward and volunteered to pay for these repairs and improvements. Otherwise the cost would have to be taken out of our annual tithes and offerings.

All of these gifts of time, talent and money have been given without the donors seeking any recognition. They do it as silent stewards because they love Jesus and our church. They are not the only silent stewards – each committee and activity has dozens of other people who contribute time, talent and funds as they work to make our church a wonderful place for worship, fellowship and discipleship. Someone hands you a bulletin and then picks it up if you leave it behind. Others teach a class, watch our children, operate the sound system, plan for a meal to be served, or pray for you daily.

When more than two or three gather in His name it truly takes an army of Christian soldiers to make things happen. On behalf of the Facilities Ministry Team we appreciate all that each person does in Christ's name.

# Youth

When I came to on staff 2 years ago. I wanted to make it a priority to network and meet other youth pastors in town. It has become one of the greatest blessings in all my years of ministry. Once a month we meet to have coffee, talk ministry, and build friendships. From this group I connected with Daryl McCard who leads the youth at Union Baptist, and we joined together to work on BaseCamp this summer. What a blessing!! God is really building a trust and love between the student ministries in this area. Because of what God is doing through this group of pastors, I have an amazing announcement about a game changing event here in Griffin. On October 1st at 6pm in the Griffin Auditorium over 14 churches and student ministries will be gathered together! We are calling this event UNITE. Our goal is to meet as One church, for One night, for One Purpose. That purpose is Jesus!! UNITE is a totally free event for any middle school/ high school student in Spalding/ Pike/Lamar/Upson. There will be games, worship, a speaker, and a chance for students to respond to the Gospel. Please pray for all the students, the churches, and all the professionals that have donated their time and talents for free to make this happen. God is doing something amazing in this city and surrounding counties.



## Church-wide Memory Verse for October

I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart;  
I will recount all of your wonderful deeds.

Psalms 9:1



# Important Dates

## October Birthdays

- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| 1 - Eden Elling    | 17 - Bob Bugg          |
| 3 - Jean Parente   | 18 - Bill Holmes       |
| 4 - Ralph Jones    | 18 - Sowah Simmonds    |
| 5 - Pat Brown      | 19 - Caleb Crumpler    |
| 5 - Sara Lee Esary | 20 - Megan Armour      |
| 6 - Jon Geerlings  | 20 - Bryan Aldridge    |
| 7 - Art Hammond    | 22 - Bryan Chipman     |
| 8 - Emily Elling   | 22 - Vince Kiley       |
| 8 - Bill Johnson   | 24 - Angela Griggs     |
| 10 - Donna Krepps  | 30 - Joyce Kirby       |
| 11 - Robin Reahard | 30 - Karlene Hollender |
| 31 - Bob Gordon    |                        |

## Directory Pictures

ColorCraft will be at First Pres taking pictures on October 30 & 31 for the new pictorial directory. Sign up in the narthex. Then, you will receive a call from them to confirm the time.

## October Anniversaries

- 10/8/1994 - Darren & Sharon Norris
- 10/13/2001 - Kyle & Johnna Johnson
- 10/14/2006 - Stewart & Allison Esary
- 10/17/1985 - Eddie & Elaine Huffman

## October Session Meetings

- Prayer Meeting**  
September 11th at 9:00 am.  
Everyone is invited to attend.
- Session Meeting**  
October 25th after worship

**Fall Break for Spalding County Schools is October 12-16**

**We will celebrate Communion on Sunday, October 4.**

**Mark your calendars! Kirkin of the Tartan Sunday is October 25<sup>th</sup>.  
Congratulate Barbara McTigue who won the Tartan drawing this year.**

**Meet our  
Newest  
Members**



**Welcome to  
First Pres!**  
Dan & Sharon  
Stansberry

# Service Opportunities in October

## Children's Message

10/4 - Lou Baldwin  
 10/11 - Dianne Pinson  
 10/18 - Drew Elling  
 10/25 - Diane Gordon

## Elder in Charge

Joe Bailey

## Communion Servers

### October 4

Joe Bailey, Captain  
 Wendi Kirby  
 Lou Baldwin  
 Sid Esary  
 Roy Villers  
 Ina Jones  
 Gary Hollums  
 Ralph Jones  
 Stewart Esary  
 Bill Day

## Ushers

John Aldridge, Capt.  
 Ashley Moran  
 John Craig  
 Brenda Huckaby, alternate

## 2s and 3s Nursery

10/4 - Bob & Roi Bugg  
 10/11 - Joe & Jane Bailey  
 10/18 - Trey & Tara Jones  
 10/25 - Angela & Wayne Griggs

## You're invited....

### 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Celebrating Life

*The Board of Directors cordially invites you  
 to attend a banquet to benefit the*

#### Caring House

Pregnancy Resource Center  
 of Griffin, Georgia

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2015**

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. (Doors open at 6:00 p.m.)

SPALDING COUNTY SENIOR CENTER  
 885 Memorial Drive, Griffin, Georgia 30223

GUEST OF HONOR: GRADY CALDWELL  
 Pastor, New Mercy Baptist Church

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: PAM JENKINS  
 Founder of Jabbok Ministries

Attire: Coat & Tie

**Tickets: \$50 per person** (catered dinner)

RSVP REQUIRED BY OCTOBER 15<sup>th</sup>  
 770-229-4474 or [contact@caring-house.com](mailto:contact@caring-house.com)  
 (Name, mailing address, & number attending)

## Special Thanks

Dear Church Family,

Words can't express how thankful I am to know a group of people who are so giving. The visits for prayer when I was in the hospital meant so much. I've received over 200 cards, many for this congregation. Thanks for the meals and prayers over the last seven months. I'm getting better but it's a slow process. I'm in remission as a result of the stem cell transplant & the many prayers. Please continue to pray for my continuous remission.

Love to all, Christy Skinner

Thank you so much for your generous support of our ministry! The love offering covered our tickets to Brazil. We start our Brazil mission in October. We really enjoyed fellowship with your church. God's Spirit is moving through you!

Bernadette & Jeff Todd

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

## Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) – Information and an invitation to learn CPR

Dear Friends,

The Session recently voted unanimously to procure a cardiac defibrillator which is now on the premises. We MUST train people to be able to effectively use this device to save lives. We have been in the soul saving business, but now we have the opportunity to save someone from premature physical death, whether at the church or in our homes. If we have enough people trained to use this equipment, we will be blessed as rescuers and as the body of Christ. Georgia has a Good Samaritan Law that protects a trained person from any liability during a cardiac resuscitation. The skills you learn may not only be useful in the church, but anywhere such as the home, shopping mall, etc. Both the young and old are not immune from having a sudden cardiac arrest.

The training is given by certified trainers in a local company and takes about 2 hr and 15 minutes and results in an American Heart Association Certificate. Once trained we, in the church, will work in teams of four individuals who would respond if necessary when on the premises. We have been very lucky that sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) has never occurred in our church. I am alive today because I did experience SCA three years ago and was successfully brought back to life without any residual defects thanks to the rapid response of my trained rescuers—PTL. If you are at home, just knowing CPR and administering it can save lives even without a defibrillator.

**The Facts:** The December 2014 American Heart Association statistics reported **over 326,000 people died of sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) in 2013 in the U.S.**, more than Alzheimer's, assault by firearms, breast cancer, prostate cancer, cervical cancer, colorectal cancer, diabetes, HIV, house fires, motor vehicle accidents, and suicides combined.

The only way to prevent physical death from happening is to be ready and able to do CPR and defibrillate the heart (bring it back from fibrillation to a normal beating heart rhythm) using an automated external defibrillator (AED). Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) alone is not enough since it does not start the fibrillating heart. CPR is very important and can save lives even if an AED is not available, but an electric shock by an AED contributes greatly to the success of the CPR by getting the heart into a normal beating rhythm. It only takes 4 minutes before permanent brain damage occurs without the use of CPR. Waiting for EMS to arrive while doing nothing, doesn't cut it! However, if you know CPR and do not have access to an AED in the home or elsewhere, the next best thing is to keep doing CPR and call 911 for help.

Our training session will teach you CPR and how to defibrillate the heart and much more!

**If interested, PLEASE RESPOND BY contacting Bill Farr while in church, by phone or returning an email to [wmfarr@bellsouth.net](mailto:wmfarr@bellsouth.net). Just let me know that you want training and the answers to the lines in bold type below.**

### I need answers by Oct 13<sup>th</sup>.

- **Are you willing to be trained?** \_\_\_ NO \_\_\_ YES
- Cost is \$35 - \$50 depending on the number of trainees.
- Course is 2 hr. 15 min. in duration
- Occurs at the church, if I have three or more people
- **Which time of day is best for you? (check all that apply to you) between \_\_\_ 9 am and 11:15 am or \_\_\_ Noon and 2:15 pm, or \_\_\_ 6 pm to 8:15 pm**
- **List day(s) of the week during which you cannot train (I hope to complete the training by the end of November 2015)**
- List your name, please. \_\_\_\_\_

Thanks so much!

In Christ,

Bill Farr  
 770-584-9727



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## *Be Involved*

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 175<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY NOVEMBER 27, 2016**

Work has begun to start the celebration of our 175<sup>th</sup> 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**

Please make plans to attend our  
Bible Study

**Monday, October 12 at 10:15 am,  
Fellowship Class Room.**

Scripture to be studied:  
Matthew 3:13-17

Bring your Study Book and Bible

**All women are invited.**